

Hafa Adai!

Senate approves key bills on utilities and elderly care. **PAGE 3**

\$10K cash bail placed on man who stole vehicle. **PAGE 4**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 210

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY OCTOBER 21, 2024

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

MACS interested in CNMI/Guam inter-island service

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the CNMI's inter-island air service facing legal battles and fare prices at an all-time high, Micronesian Air Connection Services' interest in providing

inter-island travel between the CNMI and Guam could not come at a better time.

Szabo Aerospace, LLC dba Micronesia Air Connection Services (a sister company of Micronesia Air Cargo Services under J&P Holdings) has informed the Commonwealth Economic Development

Authority that it intends to pursue inter-island air service between the CNMI and Guam.

In a business plan submitted to CEDA, Szabo Aerospace outlines

See MACS on Page 4

CUC TERMINATES MUÑA

Muña: I will not be silenced



KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. employee Candice Nicole L.G. Muna has publicly accused CUC's administration of corruption in the form of unlawful termination, mismanagement of funds, and more.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.—after placing its grants writer Candice Nicole L.G. Muña on administrative leave following public allegations of corruption, mismanagement of funds, and more—has terminated her employment. In a statement from Muña to the press, she says this

See MUÑA on Page 4



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence team during the Purple Wave, Walk, & Roll event last Thursday at the San Antonio basketball court.

Over 300 take part in Purple Wave, Walk & Roll

By **RACQUEL H. FLOYD**
rxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

A total of 339 members of the community gathered along the San Antonio basketball court roadside with posters, waving to ongoing traffic and passersby to raise awareness for the Northern Marianas Coalition

Against Domestic and Sexual Violence's Purple Wave, Walk, & Roll last Thursday afternoon with this year's theme "Solidarity for Safety."

The Purple Wave, Walk, and Roll is a free, community-wide event open to all ages. Every year, it's being joined by Northern Marianas

See OVER on Page 4

\$25K cash bail placed on man who beat up woman

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT



Following his arrest for allegedly beating up a woman, a 41-year-old man is facing a \$25,000 fine and charges of disturbing the peace, assault, assault and battery, aggravated assault and battery,

See \$25K on Page 4

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nicholas Aldan Rabauliman is escorted out of the courtroom following his bail hearing last Friday.

INSIDE



LOCAL

The CNMI's very own Get Rekt Team won the championship of Season 2 of the Marianas ESports League held earlier this month in Guam.

PAGE 5



WORLD

Hamas confirmed Friday that its leader, Yahya Sinwar, was killed by Israeli forces in Gaza and reiterated its stance that hostages the militant group took from Israel a year ago will not be released until there is a cease-fire in Gaza and a withdrawal of Israeli troops.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

Pure pop kicked off the inductions at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame induction ceremony on Saturday as Dua Lipa and Cher sang "Believe" before ceding the stage to a medley of rump shakers by funk masters Kool & the Gang, rock classics by Foreigner and Peter Frampton, and a powerhouse performance by gospel icon Dionne Warwick, bringing the house down at 83.

PAGE 11



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT (DERA)



DERA grants and rebates, administered and awarded by the US EPA, are intended to protect human health and improve air quality by reducing harmful emissions from diesel engines.

The DERA grant releases competitive and non-competitive funding opportunities on a yearly basis. Interested parties may contact the BECQ DEQ Clean Air Program to inquire about equipment eligibility and other program guidelines and requirements.

Selected recipients may receive funding that covers up to 100% of the costs to replace existing diesel-powered vehicles, equipment, or engines!



WHAT IS DIESEL EXHAUST?

Diesel is a type of fuel derived from crude oil.

Diesel exhaust is produced from the burning of diesel fuel in most large engines, including trucks, buses, ships, construction and farm equipment, generators, and in some cars. It is a mixture of gases, vapors, and fine particulates that are harmful to both human health and the environment.



Short term exposure to diesel exhaust can cause coughs, headaches, nausea, allergic reactions causing asthma, and irritation of the eyes, nose, throat, and respiratory tract. **Long term exposure** increases the risk for serious health effects such as lung cancer.



WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR EXPOSURE TO DIESEL EXHAUST

- Limit the amount of time you spend near running engines.
- If diesel fuel is necessary, choose Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel.
- Service your engines regularly to reduce exhaust fumes. If possible, replace old diesel engines.
- Report excessive diesel smoke to the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality!



2006 Ford New Holland Tractor



2022 John Deere Tractor



DERA FOR CNMI



- In 2022, the BECQ Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) applied for and received the DERA State Grant, with the Rota Department of Lands and Natural Resources as the sub-awardee to replace their 2006 Ford New Holland tractor.
- The 2006 Ford New Holland tractor with a Tier 1 engine was replaced by a 2022 John Deere tractor with a Tier 4 engine.
- Tier 4 certified engines meet EPA's highest emission standards by significantly reducing air pollution, specifically emissions of particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) to near zero levels.

For more information, please contact the DEQ Clean Air Program at
670-664-8512 or email deq.air@becq.gov.mp

Local

Senate approves key bills on utilities and elderly care

By SKYLEE SANTOS
santosskylee@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The Senate recently passed two key measures—House Bill 23-97, SB1 CCS1, which updates the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission Act, and Senate Resolution No. 23-29, focused on improving elderly care services across the CNMI.

These actions highlight the Senate's commitment to addressing critical issues affecting both public utilities and the well-being of vulnerable populations within the community.

House Bill 23-97, SB1 CCS1, authored by Rep. Vincent S. Aldan (Ind-Saipan), centers on amending the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission Act of 2006. The bill, introduced through Conference Committee Report 23-04, proposes modifications to the framework governing public utilities, aiming to enhance oversight and management. Following thorough discussions, the Senate voted unanimously in favor of the bill, demonstrating broad consensus on the need to update and strengthen the regulation of public utilities, ensuring better services for the CNMI.

In addition to tackling utilities, the Senate passed Senate Resolution No. 23-29, introduced by Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan), with the aim of improving elderly care services. This resolution emphasizes collaboration between key agencies—such



Aldan

as the Office on Aging, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., CNMI State Medicaid Agency, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.—encouraging them to pool resources and align strategies to provide comprehensive care for the CNMI's growing elderly population. Recognizing

the rising demand for senior care, the Senate stressed the importance of coordinated efforts to ensure that seniors receive the support they need to live dignified, healthy lives.

The passage of Senate Resolution 23-29 underscores the Senate's broader initiative to strengthen services for vulnerable groups, particularly the elderly. As

the CNMI's population continues to age, this legislative move reflects a forward-thinking approach to addressing future demands on social services. The unanimous approval of both the bill and the resolution indicates strong bipartisan support for addressing community needs, from infrastructure improvements to ensuring the well-

being of senior citizens.

The session also saw updates on other community matters. Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) announced the upcoming return of Rota's Agriculture Fair, which had been absent for nine years. The fair is expected to revive local agricultural engagement and foster community spirit.

Rev & Tax wants taxpayer feedback

The Division of Revenue and Taxation invites taxpayers to complete a short survey on services received this year.

The survey, available via link <https://forms.office.com/g/GBQBdNrE8k> and finance.gov.mp, aims to measure the effectiveness and quality of the assistance provided by DRT.

"We want to learn from taxpayers directly how we can improve our services," said

Daniel Alavarez, director of the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

The survey will take 1-2 minutes to complete and will not record your name unless it is provided for further inquiry.

For more information, contact DRT at (670) 664-1040 or revtaxinfo@dof.gov.mp. (PR)

PIC temporarily closes water park, rooms

Pacific Islands Club Saipan announced the temporary closure of its water park and room facilities in a press release over the weekend.

"We regret to inform the general public that we will be temporarily closing our water park and rooms from Nov. 7 to 30, 2024. While our water park and rooms are closed, our team will be available for any inquiries regarding food and beverage services and future bookings," the press release read.

PIC Saipan then apologized for the inconvenience while improvements to its water

park facility are in progress.

The San Antonio resort said it is excited to have the community back at PIC Saipan beginning Dec. 1, 2024.

For more information, contact PIC Saipan at (670) 234-7976 during normal working hours (Monday-Friday, from 8am to 5pm). (PR)

ARMATECH

**JOE HILL
HILL LAW OFFICE**
P.O. Box 500917
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7743/6806
Fax: (670) 234-7753
E-mail: vesta@pticom.com

Attorney for Plaintiff Juliana C. Samonte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JULIANA C. SAMONTE, Plaintiff,
vs.
SUNG HUN SON, Defendant.

Civil Action No. 22-0224-CV
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: November 12, 2024
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Hon. Lillian Ada Tenorio

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff Juliana C. Samonte, through counsel Joe Hill, request and moves the Court to strike Defendant's Answer dated November 22, 2022 filed in this matter, and declare Defendant Sung Hun Son in default.

The hearing on Plaintiff's Motion to Strike Defendant's Answer dated November 22, 2022 and Declare Defendant in Default dated August 30, 2024 ("Motion") has been set for Nov. 12, 2024 at 1:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard before the Honorable Lillian Ada Tenorio, Associate Judge of the above-named Court.

A copy of the said Motion is available for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court of the said Court. SIGNED this 10th day of September, 2024.

PATRICK V. DIAZ
Clerk of Court

By: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Jamerito Adona, Casama, Petitioner,
vs.
Yolanda Cruz, Casama, Respondent,

FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0160
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is Box 10003 PMB 686 Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 3rd of October, 2024.

/s/ Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055 SAIPAN MP 96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 FAX: (1-670) 234-6662
E-MAIL ADDRESS: CPA.ADM@PTICOM.COM WEBSITE: <https://www.cnmiports.com>

Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport

"Car Rental Concessions" for: CPA-RFP-002-25

(Saipan) CPA Concession No. CRS-2024-20
(Tinian) CPA Concession No. CRT-2024-30
(Rota) CPA Concession No. CRR-2024-40

The Commonwealth Ports Authority ("CPA" or "Authority") is soliciting proposals for the award of a total of three (3) concessions, one (1) per respective Airport, granting the privilege to provide motor vehicle rental services to the traveling public (including the provision of insurance related to motor vehicles rented in the operation of such motor vehicle rental services) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport ("Car Rental Concession"). The successful proposers will be expected to provide motor vehicle rental services in accordance with its concession and concession agreement at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, and/or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport for a period of three years with an option upon entering into a concession agreement with the Authority.

The date of issuance of CPA-RFP-002-25 is Friday, October 18, 2024, and it can be obtained at the issuing office: CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday. CPA offices are closed every other Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than Friday, November 8, 2024.

Proposals must be addressed to Commonwealth Ports Authority, Attn: Car Rental Concessions Evaluation Committee, CPA Administration Office, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and submitted to and received by the CPA Administration Office (second floor of arrival terminal at the Saipan International Airport) by or before 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at which time the proposal period shall expire. Please ensure that your proposal clearly indicates the correct concession number corresponding to the location for which you are submitting. Proposals must be accompanied with a non-refundable administrative fee of \$100.00. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, or cashier's check payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority to defray the costs associated with handling and considering the proposal. Proposals are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to cancel this RFP and to reject any and all proposals in accordance with its Concession Regulations (NMIAC Chapter 40-70).

LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

MIRAGE CORPORATION

PMB 750 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950

Please take notice that Mirage Corporation, a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands corporation was dissolved effective September 12, 2024.

\$10K cash bail placed on man who stole vehicle

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The man who stole a vehicle just outside MingYang store in San Vicente is facing a \$10,000 bail, as

well as jail time for his deed as imposed by the NMI Superior Court in Susupe on Oct 16.

On Oct. 14, the following day after 26-year-old Alastair Tmachul Augustino stole a vehicle from a woman, police caught and arrested Augustino and he appeared before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho that Wednesday for his bail hearing.

Along with jail time, and a \$10,000 bail Augustino is facing charges of

theft of vehicle, reckless driving, and driving while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Camacho ordered that Augustino be remanded back to the Department of Corrections, and reappear in court on Oct. 24 at 10am for a preliminary hearing and Oct. 28, at 9am for an arraignment.

Camera footage also showed that Augustino initially helped the woman park before stealing the car.

Court documents stated that a complaint reached the police about a car theft at Ming Yang on Oct. 13.

When cops arrived, they interviewed the victim and she said she had got down from her vehicle to check the laundry for available washers. She was walking back to her vehicle and saw that her vehicle started backing up and the vehicle took off at a high rate of speed as she tried to stop the vehicle from leaving.

The next day, Oct. 14, 2024 a traffic investigator reviewed the parking lot surveillance footage from Fresh Laundry. The shirtless male individual who had a shirt over his head and was barefoot was seen hiding behind a sedan. When the victim had exited her vehicle, the male individual started making his way towards her car. The male individual opened the driver door and got in the vehicle and seconds later the vehicle accelerated backing up. as the victim had stated.

On the same day at 10:18pm, DPS

Central received a call from a man regarding the stolen vehicle parked at his residence along Kagman III Phase 4.

The caller notified DPS Central dispatcher the individual who took the vehicle is in his residence and asked officers to hurry to his location. Officers learned from the caller that he seen the video of the incident through social media and positively identified the shirtless male individual as Augustino, who resides with him in Kagman II, and who got in the black Mazda CX-9 and drove away from the parking lot of Fresh Laundry in San Vicente. Police officers located Augustino down the street at the neighbors where Augustino admitted to police that he had used his shirt to cover his face and he saw he had the opportunity to steal the Mazda CX-9 from the parking lot as he saw the operator had exited her vehicle. The report said that Augustino stated he stole the vehicle because he was tired of walking after he started walking from Chalan Laulau. According to the report Augustino admitted to officers, he had consumed alcoholic beverages the night of the incident. He left the laundromat and drove straight home to Kagman. He reversed the vehicle into his residence and turned the vehicle off. He tried to turn the vehicle on but the vehicle could not start. Augustino stated he was so drunk so he just slept in the vehicle until the next morning.



Augustino

MUÑA

From page 1

will not deter her and she will not be silenced.

Last Oct. 17, CUC executive director Kevin Watson sent out a notice of termination of employment addressed to Muña. The termination notice comes just nine days after Watson placed Muña on administrative leave pending investigation into several incidences including unsubstantiated claims, complaint of harassment and hostile work environment, incidents of insubordination, breach of protocols, and more.

Watson, in a statement to the media last Thursday, said Muña's claims of corruption are unsubstantiated.

"I don't think she's a whistleblower because there was no substantiated corruption, and these are just accusations she is making. The accusations were personnel matters and had nothing to do with corruption or anything of that sort. It's just about a grievance she filed against another employee, and we need to protect the privacy of all individuals so that's all I can say about that," he said.

However, in a six-page statement from Muña to the media, she argues she is a whistleblower and she stands firm in her claims stating that as a grants writer, she witnessed them first hand.

"Whistleblowers are individuals who, at great personal risk, expose unethical practices, corruption, or fraud within organizations or institutions. Their actions are motivated by a sense of duty to the public, often in response to mismanagement or violations of the law that harm the broader community. Whistleblowers are essential in holding institutions accountable, as they shine a light on practices that would otherwise remain hidden. This courageous act of coming forward often leads to re-

taliation—both personal and professional—but it is done in the name of justice, transparency, and the public good. I am a whistleblower because, in my role as a grants writer at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (CUC), I witnessed, first hand, a pattern of inefficiency, mismanagement, unjust hiring practices and handling of grievances by HR and senior management, corruption, cronyism, and mismanagement of the utility that directly and adversely affects the lives, health and well-being of the people of the CNMI. When I saw these practices unfolding and realized the impact they had on our community—particularly the unjust financial burden placed on ratepayers and the manipulation of public and federal funds—I knew I had to speak up," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

\$25K

From page 1

and domestic violence.

Nicholas Aldan Rabauliman appeared before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho last Friday at the NMI Superior Court in Susupe where the bail was set at \$25,000.

Upon the request of the victim, Camacho placed a Temporary Restraining Order on Rabauliman to not be in contact with her. Camacho also scheduled a preliminary hearing for Rabauliman on Oct. 24 at 10am. The arraignment is set for Nov. 18 at 9am. Public defense attorney Molly Dennert was appointed to represent Rabauliman and Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds will represent the government. Rabauliman was remanded back to the Department of Corrections.

According to the case file, on Wednesday evening, Oct. 16, 2024, DPS Central dispatched officers to a reported disturbing the peace incident at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. When officers arrived at CHCC Emergency Room they met with a physician who informed them that a patient went to the emergency room at around 5:30pm with a headache and feeling nauseous and dizzy. The doctor had ordered a CT scan to be done for the patient who had bruising around her eyes, behind her

ears and on her neck.

The doctor said that the patient, also identified as the victim had a concussion.

She further stated that the victim had an argument with Rabauliman over the weekend and that he punched and head-butted her. The victim had told the doctor that she stayed home to minimize the problem, so no police report was made, but also told filed a TRO against Rabauliman. The doctor stated that she had to report the incident due to her position.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

MACS

From page 1

the establishment of a new passenger aviation company in the CNMI, Micronesia Air Connection Services, focusing on inter-island transportation with a fleet of spacious aircraft.

"The venture aims to address current market gaps and capitalize on the recovering tourism industry by offering competitive pricing, frequent schedules, and superior customer service. Centered in Saipan, Micronesia Air Connection Services will connect Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam, targeting both local residents and tourists," said the business plan.

The business plan also details the objectives, target market, competitive analysis and opportunities, marketing strategy, operations and financial plan and risk mitigation demonstrating potential profitability within three years.

According to the business plan,

MACS aims to revitalize air transportation in Guam and the CNMI as both territories recover from the dual impacts of super typhoons Mawar and Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The CNMI's tourism industry, the backbone of its economy, has faced unprecedented challenges. Visitor numbers plummeted from a robust 487,000 in 2019 to a mere 88,900 in 2020 and further to 12,700 in 2021. Recent data shows promising signs of recovery, with visitor numbers rebounding to 95,600 in 2022. Despite this positive trend, current tourism levels remain at only one-third of the historical peak achieved in 2017, when the CNMI welcomed 653,200 visitors. Similarly, Guam's tourism industry is a top economic contributor, providing over 21,000 jobs to the local community, making up a third of Guam's workforce. In 2018, Guam welcomed 20,601 CNMI visitors. In 2023, Guam welcomed 13,063 CNMI visitors. CNMI residents visit Guam for medical services, business relations, and leisure, to see family and friends, and to attend educational institutions. Tourism between CNMI and Guam contributes to several industries in the region, such as retail, hospitality, medical, and entertainment," said the business plan.

"MACS is a locally rooted company with deep ties to the region. It fuses its intimate regional knowledge with its extensive aviation experience to provide first-rate aviation services. Leveraging its sister company's established air cargo operations and shared hub infrastructure, MACS can offer competitive pricing and frequent flights between Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and Guam, incentivizing tourism and enabling locals to travel inter-island more frequently. MACS is strategically positioned to accelerate this recovery by addressing critical gaps in the aviation market," the business plan adds.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

OVER

From page 1

Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence's partnering organizations, agencies, survivors, their families, friends, and supporters. The event unites people of all ages, genders, and backgrounds, coming together to support the movement.

According to NMCADSV Communication manager Ha'Ane Eugenio, the Domestic Violence Awareness Month walk has been held since 1995.

Originally known as the "White Ribbon March" and held once a month before 2011, the event became the "Walk Against Domestic Violence" and took place every October from 2011 to 2019. In 2019, it was renamed the "Purple Wave, Walk, & Roll" and is now held on Purple Thursday.

It was followed by a one-mile walk through the village, chanting encouraging and motivating slogans that change each year to reflect our theme and campaign of the month.

Eugenio added that each year, a different village is chosen as the venue for the walk, which allows them to bring support directly to where victims and survivors may live.

"Our goal is for survivors to hear the chants and feel supported, while also inspiring others to join the movement," said Eugenio.

Purple Thursday is a national day where DVAM encourages people to wear purple to raise awareness about domestic violence and show support for victims and survivors. Wearing purple symbolizes solidarity, sparks conversations, and promotes advo-

cacy. It encourages action against domestic violence and stands with those affected. It serves as a visible reminder of the importance of prevention and supporting victims and survivors.

Furthermore, Eugenio said that the Domestic Violence Awareness month will be concluded with a Candlelight Vigil, which is an invite-only event.

"This intimate and somber gathering provides a safe space for the families of victims to come together in remembrance and support. It provides them the opportunity to honor the lives of their loved ones lost to domestic violence, fostering a sense of community and healing in the process. We aim to create an environment where families can share their stories and emotions, offering each other comfort and understanding during this time."

Meanwhile, last Saturday, NMCA-DASV collaborated with the Tinian DVAM Planning Committee, the Tinian Health Center, and the Tinian High School Stallion Battalion and hosted a 5K Fun Run, Walk, and Wheel to raise awareness for both Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

While the Rota's DVAM Planning Committee will be hosting an Outreach Handwave tomorrow in collaboration with Domestic Violence & Bullying Awareness Month, in addition, they will also be hosting a 3-on-3 Friendly Youth Basketball Tournament and Day of Unity on Nov. 9, 2024.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Get Rekt Team rules Marianas ESports League 2024

By SKYLEE SANTOS
santosskylee@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

The CNMI's very own Get Rekt Team won the championship of Season 2 of the Marianas ESports League held earlier this month in Guam.

The team is made up of team manager Rovien Maratita, team captain Samuel Alvarez, and members Bryce Maratita, Patrick Bangis, and Jarrel Catungal.

The tournament spanned over several months, beginning in late August of 2024 and concluding in early October.

According to the team, the tournament involved multiple phases, starting with qualifiers in late September, leading to the playoffs and culminating in early October. This extended timeline allowed the CNMI team to practice and strategize, giving them ample time to refine their gameplay leading up to the finals.

"We had to come up with new strategies... and the biggest one was changing roles, which the other team didn't expect," said Bryce Maratita and Catungal as they described the strategies the team used in tournaments to defeat their opponents.

Catungal and Alvarez further shared their roles in the tournaments and how they switched between tournaments, throwing off their opposing team. The team also talked about the challenges of coming up with different strategies against a strong opponent, One Trick from Guam.

"Our victory was secured through flexibility. We were able to switch roles in-game, which confused the other team and helped us win 4-2 in the best-of-seven series."

As a new member of the team, Catungal explained it



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, team manager Rovien Maratita, Samuel Alvarez, Eduardo Manahan, Jarrel Catungal, and Patrick Bangis sporting their team jerseys sponsored by FAT NMI at the Marianas Esports League in Guam

was his "first time" competing in the tournament and shared a laugh at how nervous he was. Bangis also pointed out that it was his first time competing as well. However, they both sure did a lot of work to help the team win the championship.

"In the first season of the Marianas Esports League, we placed second. Fortunately, this year, in Season 2, we took the championship," said Bryce Maratita as he explains their journey through the league.

When asked about their teamwork, Alvarez explained "It took time to build chemistry, but once we did, we were prepared. We added new members and focused on teamwork." True to his statement, the team worked together and struggled together with each member contributing effectively creating a strong collaboration.

The team initially formed last year seeking new members through Facebook ads. Despite only having a month to prepare, they dedicated themselves to daily practice

and communication.

They shared how their success had challenges such as different schedules such as balancing school and work while committing to the tournament, highlighting their cohesion, and coordinating remotely via WhatsApp but coming together for key matches.

"Some of us are students, some are working. We had to juggle between responsibilities and the tournament schedule, but we stuck to it," they shared.

Another significant part of their success was their ability to analyze and adapt to their competitors. Before each match, they discussed strategies and shared their strategies to counter the strengths of their rivals. A key strategy they employed was banning the comfort picks of their opponents, forcing them to use characters they were less familiar with, creating an opportunity for an outplay against them.

Guam's MESL is dedicated to fostering competitive gam-

ing in the Marianas region, providing opportunities to showcase talents and allow individuals to compete at high levels. It is an instrument in promoting games such as Mobile Legends: Bang Bang and Valorant. Guam also participates in international tournaments from the ESports Federation which helped.

"In Guam, there's an ESports federation that... has already been in the works," Maratita explains. "We want to expand esports here in the CNMI, like what Guam is doing. There's talent here, and with the right infrastructure and support, we can participate in international

tournaments."

Last year, the team attempted to join the International ESports Federation tournament, an international competition that Guam is participating in this year. With them being reigning champions of the MESL, Get Rekt envisions the development and awareness of a more formal ESports structure in the CNMI, similar to Guam's established federation.

"For sports, Guam could be a hub, we could be a hub," Maratita suggests as he mentions how the CNMI could emulate Guam's success with the backing of infrastructure and funding support from the

government to promote esports in the CNMI.

"We definitely want help from anybody who wants to invest and see that esports is a possibility here in the CNMI."

Get Rekt believes esports is a growing community and would like others to explore and try it out.

"We wanted esports out in the community. If not, this is just exposure," said Bryce Maratita. He also shares that the Northern Marianas College hosts mini tournaments every Friday for the community to join. "If you want to play games, you can come. It's not only mobile. And if you want to compete in the competitive scene, then we can probably help you create it or help you join."

Get Rekt is hoping to gain more players on their team by reaching out to the community and inviting interested players. They welcome high school and college students to join them and grow their team and community. For more information about their team, follow their Instagram @grekt_cnmi or contact them through email at grektesports@gmail.com.

With more support from the community and government to help the growth of esports, the team sees the possibility of esports becoming a tourist attraction, which in turn could help jump-start the local economy.

Supreme Court affirms trial court finding of due process violation by Board of Parole

On Oct. 18, 2024, the Supreme Court affirmed the trial court's decision to grant, in part, a habeas petition in *Appleby v. Villagomez*. The trial court determined that Shawn Appleby, who had his probation revoked, is properly imprisoned but should have his parole eligibility date redetermined by the Board of Parole.

Appleby was arrested in March 2020 for assault, causing the Board of Parole to initiate parole revocation procedures. The Board of Parole then revoked parole based upon testimony from Appleby and other witnesses, including his parole officer. Appleby filed a habeas corpus petition with the Superior Court, asserting that his imprisonment is unlawful because the Board of Parole violated his due process rights numerous times throughout the course of the parole revocation.

In affirming the lower court's decision, the Supreme Court held that the Board of Parole only failed to meet two of the minimum due process



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

File photo of the interior of the Supreme Court at the Guma Hustisia building in Susupe.

requirements: the Board of Parole did not notify Appleby of his right to request appointed counsel before his preliminary hearing and erroneously found that he violated one condition of parole without a preliminary hearing or notice to Appleby. The court found, however, that Appleby was not prejudiced by the first error, because he had no right to appointed counsel and was later represented by his public defender at the final hearing anyway.

Appleby's writ of habeas corpus is limited to only re-

quiring redetermination of his parole eligibility date, since the Board of Parole properly found that Appleby violated three other conditions of parole. The court notes that two of the Board of Parole's forms do not meet due process requirements, and urges the Board of Parole to update them. The Supreme Court affirms the partial grant of Appleby's habeas petition.

The full opinion can be read on the Law Revision Commission website: <https://cnmilaw.org/spm24.php#gsc.tab=0>. (PR)

Hocog expresses gratitude to IH-Group for proposed development

ROTA, Northern Marianas—Rota Mayor Aubry M. Hocog has expressed deep gratitude to IH-Group for their continued interest and unwavering efforts to develop the island of Rota.

In a recent statement, Hocog highlighted the significance of IH-Group's proposed land-based casino and online casino gaming operations, as well as their ambitious city project that would bring substantial benefits to the local community.

"We are truly grateful for IH-Group's commitment to Rota," Hocog stated. "Their



Hocog

proposed development projects not only promise to create numerous job opportunities for our residents but also address pressing concerns such as the high cost of living. The proposed solar project, in particular, has the potential to significantly alleviate the financial burden faced by our people."

The mayor emphasized that IH-Group's investment on Rota would have a transformative impact on the island's economy. The proposed land-based casino and online casino gaming op-

erations would attract tourists and generate revenue, leading to increased economic activity and improved quality of life for Rota residents. Moreover, the city project would create new infrastructure and amenities, enhancing the overall appeal of the island as a destination.

Hocog concluded by expressing her optimism about the future of Rota and the positive contributions that IH-Group would make to the island's development. She reaffirmed the Municipality's commitment to working closely with the company to ensure the successful implementation of their proposed projects. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 210

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Simple economics can help cut health care costs

Of the \$4.5 trillion the U.S. spends on health care every year, the largest proportion—almost a third—goes to hospitals. The cost of hospital services has consistently outpaced the overall inflation rate for at least two decades. If Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump really want to reduce health-care costs—as they both say—addressing this trend should be a priority.

Hospitals are heavily regulated, labyrinthine institutions that straddle the public and private sectors. In many cases, their pricing is subject to forces beyond their control. But absent (another) major reform to the U.S. health-insurance system, more straightforward changes can still help rein in spending.

Consider hospitals' biggest expenditure—labor—which accounts for 60% of spending. Workforce shortages are often blamed for these costs. The government estimates shortages of almost 140,000 physicians over the next 15 years. Yet shortages aren't inevitable. In many cases, they're the result of government policies that can and should be revised.

An obvious place to start would be so-called scope-of-practice laws. Most health care workers require a license, which is granted by state authorities. Officials establish education and training standards, as well as rules dictating what certain professions can (and often cannot) do. Proponents say such laws are needed to protect patients, and limiting complex cases to skilled professionals makes some sense. (No one wants nurses performing heart surgeries.) However, needlessly strict laws limit access to care and have been shown to increase costs. One study found that relaxing such laws for nurse practitioners could save Medicare more than \$40 billion annually.

During the pandemic, several states temporarily relaxed their scope-of-practice laws to allow trained nurse practitioners and physician assistants to perform certain tasks, such as administering diagnostic tests and vaccines, without direct supervision from doctors. Once the crisis subsided, though, many states reverted to form, despite evidence that such flexibilities improved patient outcomes and increased availability of quality care.

The U.S. has fewer physicians per capita than most rich nations and the highest doctor salaries in the world. Yet lawmakers have consistently opted to limit competition and preserve the status quo. Foreign-trained doctors, for example, must overcome a wall of state and federal restrictions before they can practice in the U.S. Even those with decades of experience must pass a standardized exam, repeat their residency programs and apply for state licensure—which can take years and cost thousands of dollars. Aspiring doctors in the U.S. are only slightly better off. Federal subsidies for residency slots haven't kept pace with the number of medical-school graduates, thanks to a 1996 law that caps Medicare funding for such training programs.

Increasing the supply of highly qualified workers who can perform needed tasks—whatever their degree—is the most straightforward way to lower costs. But while some state legislatures are considering proposals to relax their scope-of-practice laws, many have struggled to overcome medical as-

See **SIMPLE** on Page 7

In Lebanon, the US is making it up as it goes along

From the moment Hezbollah fighters started launching rockets and missiles into northern Israel a year ago, the Biden administration's messaging has been consistent: the United States wants de-escalation along the Israeli-Lebanese border. The best way to accomplish this objective, U.S. officials said, was through a diplomatic agreement that provides the hundreds of thousands of people displaced on both sides of the border with the confidence to return to their homes.

Yet after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu escalated the conflict with Hezbollah last month, you don't hear much in Washington about the necessity of a cease-fire anymore. Yes, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin stress the urgency of avoiding excessive civilian casualties. But outside of generic talking points, U.S. policy has largely been suspended in time. The Israelis have a game plan in Lebanon, intend to execute it, and are perfectly fine with downplaying or outright ignoring whatever reservations the U.S. may have. In the meantime, the U.S., the world's foremost superpower, looks increasingly feckless, unable or unwilling to constrain a junior partner now fighting two wars simultaneously.

Indeed, it's amazing how quickly U.S. policy in Lebanon has changed over the span of a few weeks. There was a time not so long ago when President Joe Biden dispatched Amos Hochstein, one of his troubleshooters, to work with Israeli and Lebanese officials on averting a large-scale war that none of the parties seemed to want. Using Lebanese government officials as intermediators to Hezbollah, the U.S. pitched several proposals to the group in the hope common ground could be reached. The goal was clear, but the time pressure was enormous; with every day that Israel and Hezbollah traded fire, the patience in Jerusalem for an agreement waned. Netanyahu, who was already receiving pressure from the families of the remaining hostages in Gaza, also became a target of the roughly 60,000 Israelis in the north who hadn't set foot in their houses for months. Even Israeli politicians considered more moderate, like opposition leader Benny Gantz, were calling on Netanyahu to be more aggressive on the Lebanon front. The extremists in Netanyahu's cabinet, who view any diplomatic agreement with Hezbollah as Neville Chamberlain-style appeasement, were clamoring for war months earlier.

After months of reciting talking points, it started to dawn on everybody that getting to a cease-fire was all but impossible given the respective positions of the parties. Hezbollah was categorical that it wouldn't stop launching drones and rockets into northern Israel until the war in Gaza stopped. For Netanyahu, this was a nonstarter; withdrawing from Gaza would anger the hard-right ministers in his cabinet and jeopardize the stability of his coalition government. As time wore on, and as the firing between Israel and Hezbollah became more intense, the Israelis got less and less impressed with Washington's mediation efforts.

The dam broke in mid-September. Israel came to the conclusion that it could extract more from Hezbollah on the battlefield than it could at the negotiating table. On Sept. 17 and 18, thousands of pagers and hand-held radios used by Hezbollah officials and fighters exploded simultaneously, causing chaos

By **DANIEL DEPETRIS**

Chicago Tribune

Daniel DePetris is a fellow at Defense Priorities and a foreign affairs columnist for the Chicago Tribune.



throughout Lebanon in what can only be described as the most sophisticated Mossad operation in modern history. On Sept. 27, Israel bombed Hezbollah's headquarters in the dense Beirut suburbs, killing Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah as well as an Iranian general. Days later, thousands of Israeli forces invaded southern Lebanon with the goal of destroying Hezbollah infrastructure along the border and wiping out as much of the group's missile stockpile as possible.

Today, Lebanon is a country at war. More than 1 million Lebanese are internally displaced. Israel has ordered residents in dozens of villages, towns and cities in the south to evacuate north of the Awali River, which is roughly 30 miles from the border. Beirut, a lively, cosmopolitan city that has seen its fair share of war over the last 40 years, is again a city under fire. Beirut's southern suburbs are even worse off, with Israeli airstrikes hitting the area on a daily basis.

Two weeks after it began, the extent of Israel's military campaign remains in flux; although the Israeli government claims it doesn't want to occupy Lebanese territory like it did during the 1980s and 1990s, the widespread evacuation orders across a large segment of the country suggests this is precisely what Netanyahu may have in mind. It's all a bit ominous for the Americans as well. "We support their (Israel's) ability to target militants, to degrade Hezbollah's infrastructure, to degrade Hezbollah's capability, but we are very cognizant of the many times in the past where Israel has gone in on what looked like limited operations and has stayed for months or for years," the State Department's chief spokesman said last week.

It's quite clear what Israel wants: Hezbollah moves farther north, the border region is put in the hands of a military force the Israelis can trust, and Hezbollah itself loses the political strength it has acquired over the Lebanese state. We can debate whether those objectives are realistic or not, but Israel at least has a vision.

You can't say the same about the United States. In Lebanon, Washington is essentially outsourcing its foreign policy to Israel. Once Israel escalated its air campaign in Lebanon and ordered a ground campaign, the same cease-fire U.S. officials were so invested in attaining over the last year evaporated virtually overnight. "We need a cease-fire" has turned into, "well, let's see what Israel can do militarily before we get back to the table."

The U.S. is making it up as it goes along and allowing Israel to dictate events. And Israel is more than happy to do so.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Jack Salas

By DEL BENSON
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Over a century ago, the islands now known as the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands were under Japanese control. Following World War I, Japan was granted a mandate by the League of Nations to administer these islands, along with other territories in Micronesia. This mandate made Japan responsible for overseeing much of the Pacific Islands in the region, including Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The Japanese administration, which began in 1914 and was formalized by the League of Nations in 1920, marked a significant shift in the islands' history. Prior to this, the Northern Marianas had been under Spanish and then German colonial rule. Under Japanese governance, the islands experienced rapid economic development, particularly in agriculture, with the expansion of sugar cane plantations becoming a defining feature of the landscape and economy.

This period set the stage for the dramatic events that would unfold in the following decades, including World War II and the subsequent American administration, profoundly shaping the lives of residents like Joaquin "Jack" Salas (date of birth 1933) and the future trajectory of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Jack's early years were shaped by the unique circumstances of pre-war Saipan, where Japanese culture and colonial administration intertwined with local Chamorro life.

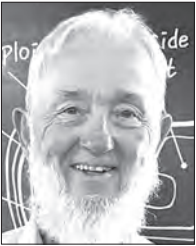
Jack's father worked for the sugar cane company, operating the heavy NKK train that traversed the island. This job provided the family with certain privileges, including housing in Chalan Kanoa near the present-day post office. As a young boy, Jack would occasionally accompany his father on train rides, giving him a panoramic view of Saipan's landscape dominated by sugar cane plantations. It's said that during this period, nearly 95% of the island was under cultivation.

Growing up bilingual, Jack spoke both Japanese and Cham-

Between the immensities: Winter Through a Mirror Part 5

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

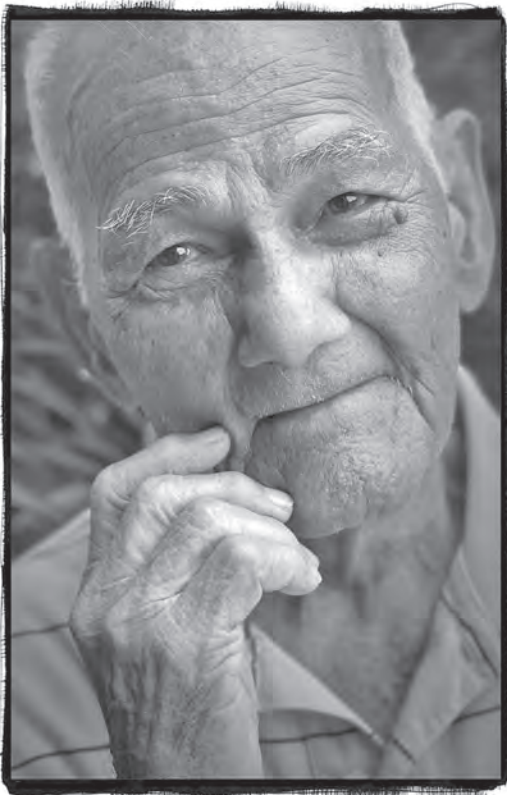
Joey Connolly aka "Pepe Batbon" is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is the Poet Laureate of Tinian and enjoys stargazing.



South Korean author Han Kang won the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2024. Nobel officials recognized Han Kang for her "intense poetic prose that confronts historical traumas and exposes the fragility of human life." Kang was born in Korea in 1970. She first published five poems in 1993 at 23 years of age. She has since moved on to short stories and novels. Here is Part 5 of one of her first poems. She writes in Korean. This is a translation of her longer poem, "Winter Through a Mirror" Part 5.

'Winter Through a Mirror Part 5'

"My eyes are two candle stubs sliding drops of wax as they consume the wick, it is not searing nor painful, they say that the quivering of the bluish flame core is the coming of souls, souls sit on my eyes and quiver, they hum, the outer flame swaying in the distance sways to get further off, tomorrow you leave for the furthest city, here I am ablaze, now you put your hands into the tomb of the void and wait, memory bites your fingers like a snake, you are not seared, nor in pain, your unflinching face does not burn or shatter."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joaquin "Jack" Salas and Del Benson. On Sept. 17, 2024, Benson visited Salas' residence to conduct an interview and photo session. Del finds great satisfaction in conversing with senior citizens, drawing from their wealth of life experiences and firsthand accounts of historical events."

orro. Life under Japanese rule was strict, with resources tightly controlled. The family's diet consisted mainly of sweet potatoes, breadfruit, and fish. Rice was a luxury primarily reserved for the Japanese, with Jack's father receiving only a small ration of about a kilo for himself.

One of Jack's most vivid pre-war memories was a mysterious incident involving what he believes might have been Amelia Earhart and her companions. As a child, he witnessed a truck stop in front of his house, carrying three blindfolded white people—a sight unfamiliar to young Jack at the time. Years later, he would reflect on this memory, wondering if he had unknowingly witnessed a significant historical event.

The outbreak of World War II brought dramatic changes to Saipan. The island was heavily damaged during the conflict, with most buildings reduced to rubble. In the immediate post-war period, Jack saw the island transform again as the American military established a presence. Tents and hastily constructed wooden houses replaced the familiar structures of his childhood. The once-thriving town of Garapan lay in ruins.

During the Cold War era of the 1950s and early 1960s, Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands became an unlikely epicenter for covert U.S. intelligence operations. The CIA, under the guise of a U.S. Navy facility, established the Naval Tactical Training Unit. This clandestine installation served as a crucible for CIA operatives, honing their skills in intelligence tradecraft, communications, counter-intelligence, and psychological warfare.

The NTTU's influence radiated throughout the Far East, bolstering various CIA activities across the region. Even today, the island bears silent testimony to this secretive chapter in its history. Remnants of the era can still be glimpsed in certain buildings and restricted areas on Capitol Hill, Marpi, and the Kagman peninsula.

As Saipan transitioned to American administration, opportunities arose for locals like Jack to find employment related to the CIA base. Significant portions of the island, including Marpi,

Kagman, and Capitol Hill were designated as restricted zones, off-limits to most inhabitants. Jack secured a position in maintenance, applying his skills in carpentry and painting. His responsibilities extended to setting up targets for military training exercises, including demolition and bazooka practice—a task fraught with danger due to the lingering presence of unexploded ordnance from World War II.

In the late 1950s, Jack was involved in the extensive scrap-
ping operations on Saipan. He served as an inspector, overseeing Filipino workers who used cutting torches to dismantle tanks and other military equipment left over from the war. These scrap materials were then shipped off to Japan and America, part of the massive post-war cleanup and resource recovery effort.

Throughout this period, Saipan's population and infrastructure were slowly rebuilding. Jack recalled that the local population in the early post-war years was around 6,000 people. Many locals, including Jack's family, initially lived in camps in Chalan Kanoa before gradually spreading out to other parts of the island.

The American administration brought changes to the island's food supply as well. Jack remembered the introduction of a fishing co-op and farmers markets, initiatives aimed at improving local food security and economic opportunities.

As he moved through his 20s and 30s during the 1950s and 1960s, Jack witnessed Saipan's gradual transition from a war-torn island to a developing trust territory. The presence of the CIA base and the restrictions it imposed on much of the island's territory were a constant reminder of Saipan's strategic importance in the post-war Pacific.

Jack's unique experiences—from riding the sugar cane train as a child, to working on the secretive CIA base, to participating in the island's post-war recovery—gave him a front-row seat to some of the most transformative decades in Saipan's history. His story encapsulates the island's journey from Japanese colony to American trust territory, and the complex legacy of World War II in the Pacific.

SIMPLE

From page 6






sociations' (often self-interested) resistance to "scope creep"—when workers increase occupational overlap with higher-skilled professionals. Such complaints are generally off the mark: The point is to allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants to perform to the full extent of their training, not beyond.

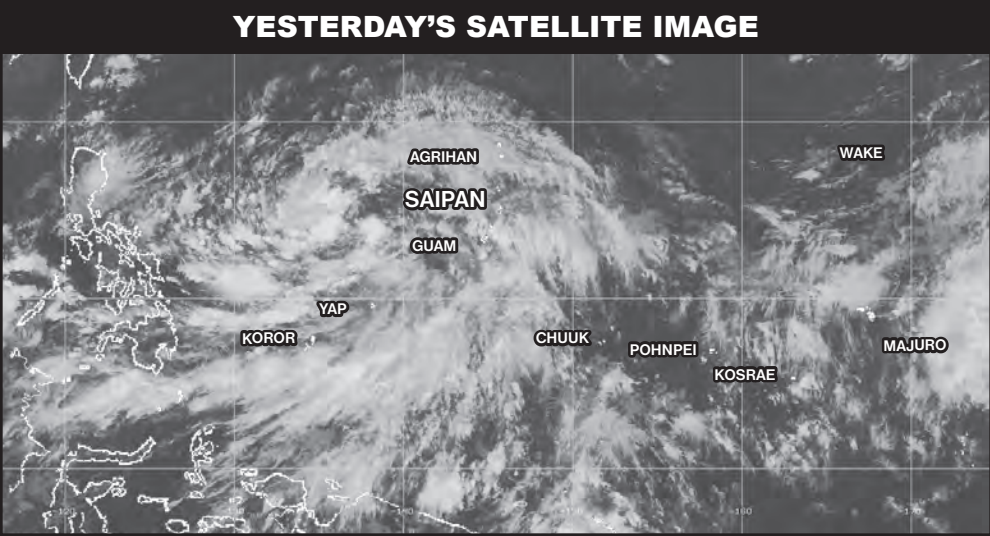
Lawmakers need to strike a better balance. Promisingly, states including Florida, Tennessee and Virginia have granted provi-

sional licenses to qualified foreign-trained doctors. More should follow their lead. U.S. regulators should also grant residency waivers to graduates of high-quality overseas medical programs. Congress, meanwhile, should reform its outdated system of funding residencies, with a goal of boosting the number of doctors in fields or specialties facing shortages.

Fixing the American health care system is a monumental undertaking. That's all the more reason to make simple improvements whenever possible. Increasing the supply of much-needed workers is a good place to start.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
									
Cloudy with widespread locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.		Cloudy with numerous locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph.		Cloudy with showers likely and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with showers likely and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°



PICTURE TIME: 4:33 AM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar trends show showers being held at bay for the most part across the Marianas. Scattered showers are seen across the eastern and western coastal waters of the Marianas. Current thinking is for shower coverage to increase today based on both the GFS and ECMWF showing the showers filling in this morning. The forecast was kept at numerous 70% PoPs with both the GFS and ECMWF in fair agreement. The risk for flash flooding looks to increase next week with the grand ensemble (A combination of the GFS, ECMWF, and Canadian ensembles) showing a mean of 7 inches of rain through Wednesday night for the Marianas. A Flash Flood Watch may be necessary as confidence in the rainfall forecast increases.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 78°	
Palau	Partly Cloudy	83° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 77°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:09 AM	5:53 PM
Tuesday	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Wednesday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Thursday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	9:49 AM	9:12 PM
Tuesday	-	10:51 AM	10:12 PM
Wednesday	-	11:49 AM	11:12 PM
Thursday	-	12:40 PM	-
Friday	12:08 AM	1:26 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily up to Oct 26	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
				7C2306/3211	11:10PM	3:30PM+1	Daily from Oct 27
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily from Oct 28	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily up to Oct 26
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily up to Oct 27	7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily from Oct 27
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily up to Oct 27
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily from Oct 27	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

ARC, DFEMS install over 50 smoke alarms on Saipan

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, in collaboration with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, is proud to announce the successful installation of over 50 smoke alarms across Saipan. This initiative aims to enhance fire safety and protect local communities.

In a recent community outreach event, dedicated volunteers from both organizations worked tirelessly to install smoke alarms in homes across Saipan. This project not only provides essential fire safety equipment but also raises awareness about the importance of smoke alarms in preventing fire-related injuries and death.

"Installing these smoke alarms is a crucial step in ensuring the safety of our



community," said J.D. Tenorio, Disaster Program manager of the ARC-NMI Chapter. "We are grateful for our partnership with DFEMS, and we encourage residents to check their smoke alarms regularly and have a fire escape plan in place."

The initiative is part of the Red Cross' ongoing commitment to disaster preparedness and community safety. According to the National Fire Protection Association, working smoke alarms can reduce the risk of dying in a reported fire by 50%. Home

visit teams also take this opportunity to educate residents about home fire safety and typhoon preparedness. "We recognize the importance of fire safety education and the role of smoke alarms in saving lives," said DFEMS Commissioner Juan Pua. "This collaboration is vital in ensuring that our residents are better protected."

Residents are encouraged to reach out to the ARC-NMI Chapter and DFEMS if they require assistance with smoke alarm installations or fire safety education.

For more information about ARC-NMI Chapter and upcoming community initiatives, visit www.redcross.org/nmi or call (670) 234-3459.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds, and provides comfort to victims of disasters; supplies about 40% of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; distributes international humanitarian aid; and supports veterans, military members and their families. The Red Cross is a nonprofit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to deliver its mission.

The mission of DFEMS is to preserve life, property, and the environment through decisive action, strong leadership, teamwork, and faithful community partnerships. (PR)



According to the National Fire Protection Association, working smoke alarms can reduce the risk of dying in a reported fire by 50%.

MBN to host CNMI and IRS tax workshop

The Marianas Business Network, in partnership with Azarvand Tax Law Firm, invites business owners and self-employed individuals to a practical and informative workshop on navigating CNMI and IRS tax obligations.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 10:30am to 12 noon at the Tom Yum Restaurant Karaoke & Bar in San Antonio.

Attendees will gain essential knowledge to help them stay compliant and avoid common tax penalties, all while enjoying a buffet lunch.

Due to limited seating, RSVP is required at this link: <https://bit.ly/3Yq7xg0>.

What you'll learn:

- IRS filing requirements for self-employed CNMI residents and employers
- Foreign bank account reporting obligations
- Defending an ERC audit or disallowance
- Tax collection issues and alternatives (IRS and CNMI)
- Offer in compromise program
- Penalty abatement
- Installment agreement
- Currently not collectible status
- Common penalties assessed against CNMI businesses and how to avoid them
- Addressing misclassified workers before the IRS takes action
- New corporate transparency act filing requirements

AVOIDING CNMI & IRS TAX ISSUES:

A WORKSHOP FOR BUSINESS OWNERS & SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS

What You'll Learn:

- IRS Filing Requirements for Self-Employed CNMI Residents & Employers
- Foreign Bank Account Reporting Obligations
- Defending an ERC Audit or Disallowance
- Tax Collection Issues & Alternatives (IRS + CNMI)
 - Offer in Compromise Program
 - Penalty Abatement
 - Installment Agreement
 - Currently Not Collectible Status
- Common Penalties Assessed Against CNMI Businesses and How to Avoid Them
- Addressing Misclassified Workers Before the IRS Does
- New Filing Requirements for Most Businesses Under the Corporate Transparency Act

October 23, 2024 (Wednesday)

10:30 AM - 12:00 NN

Tom Yum Restaurant, San Antonio

Running a business in the CNMI? Make sure you're up to date with the local and federal tax obligations that affect you. Join us for a practical workshop that will help you avoid common tax mistakes and stay compliant with local regulations.

Why Attend?

- Get clear, in-depth guidance on common CNMI and IRS tax issues seen by CNMI business owners and self-employed individuals.
- Learn how to protect yourself from costly penalties and interest.
- Q&A session to address your specific tax questions.

REGISTER NOW [For more information, visit: \[www.azarvandtaxlaw.com\]\(http://www.azarvandtaxlaw.com\)](https://bit.ly/3Yq7xg0)

sessed against CNMI businesses and how to avoid them

Why attend?

- Gain expert insights into local and federal tax regulations.
- Learn how to protect yourself from penalties and interest charges.

■ Participate in a Q&A session to address your unique tax concerns.

The CNMI and IRS tax workshop is free for Azarvand Tax Law clients (past and present) and \$15

for all other attendees (payable at the door, includes buffet lunch).

For more information, contact the Marianas Business Network's PK Phommachanh-Daigo at (670) 286-3010 or Azarvand Tax Law at (670) 785-4050 and www.azarvandtaxlaw.com.

The Marianas Business Network is a consortium of small businesses in Saipan, offering networking, support, and educational opportunities for entrepreneurs in the Northern Marianas.

Azarvand Tax Law provides comprehensive tax planning, compliance, and resolution services to businesses and individuals, with expertise in both CNMI and IRS tax matters. (PR)

Donations help Chuuk Women's Council empower women, bless families

In an effort to empower and bless the lives of women living throughout the 16 volcanic islands of Chuuk, perhaps no organization has been more proactive than the Chuuk Women's Council.

Specifically, CWC works to help women to achieve healthier and more self-reliant lives by providing mobility aids, nutrition counseling, exercise opportunities, emotional support, and other important services.

Recognizing the critical value of CWC's mission and efforts, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has made contributions to help extend the organization's ability to serve the women of Chuuk.

Among its contributions, the Church has recently donated 125 wheelchairs, several pairs of reading glasses, pedometers, and equipment to

set up a Zumba class.

The wheelchairs were distributed throughout the Chuuk Islands, and help many women to have more mobility in their daily lives. More will be provided in the future.

Reading glasses help many to read educational material that is provided by CWC.

A specific resource that the church has made available, not just to CWC, but to all island-

ers living in Micronesia, is a program manual entitled, Eat Healthy and Be Active: A Pacific Diabetes Prevention Education Programme. The manual is available in Chuukese, Kosraean, Pohnpeian, and English.

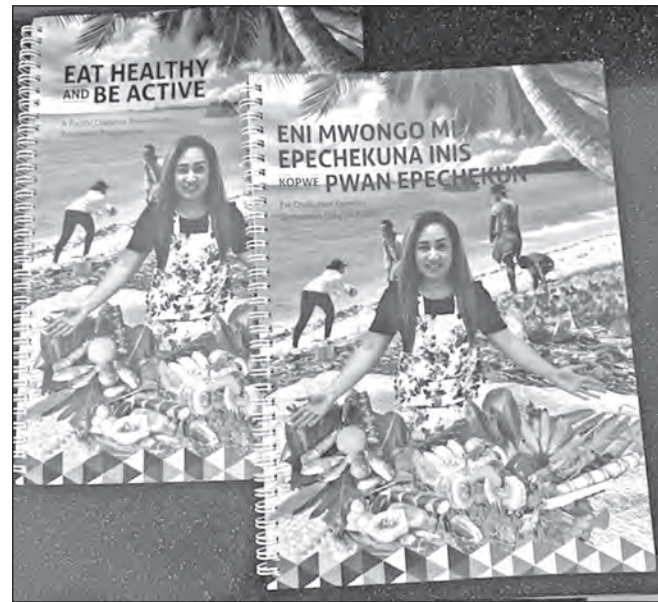
Helping and encouraging women in Chuuk to be more physically active has been a central goal of the CWC. Recently CWC sponsored a



Chuuk women with pedometers donated by the Chuuk Women's Council.

walk-a-thon, "10,000 Steps for Health" in which many in the community participated. To help in this effort, the church contributed pedometers so that walking woman can count steps and measure their walking distance in meeting daily exercise goals.

"We want to help people to be more healthy and to get out and walk," said Lidy Jane Serious, who assists her mother in directing the affairs of the CWC. Since the Walk-a-Thon, more people are walking now. They understand that they need to be active."



Eat healthy books donated by the Chuuk Women's Council.

To promote these healthier practices, the CWC holds fairs to make people aware of healthy practices. "We have a street market with local, healthy food. The market features only local food, products, and services." The market also includes a booth to promote family history for

local residents.

Serious expressed CDC's appreciation to Bill Davis and Brett Child who represent the Church of Jesus Christ's humanitarian outreach in the Guam/Micronesia area: "From my heart I want to say we couldn't do all these things without your love and donations." (PR)

Nation

AS ELECTION DAY NEARS

Judges punishing Jan. 6 rioters say they fear more political violence

WASHINGTON (AP)—Over the past four years, judges at Washington's federal courthouse have punished hundreds of rioters who stormed the U.S. Capitol in an unprecedented assault on the nation's democracy. On the cusp of the next presidential election, some of those judges fear another burst of political violence could be coming.

Before recently sentencing a rioter to prison, U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton said he prays Americans accept the outcome of next month's election. But the veteran judge expressed concern that Donald Trump and his allies are spreading the same sort of conspiracy theories that fueled the mob's Jan. 6, 2021, riot.

"That sore loser is saying the same things he said before," Walton said earlier this month without mentioning the Republican presidential nominee by name. "He's riling up the troops again, so if

he doesn't get what he wants, it's not inconceivable that we will experience that same situation again. And who knows? It could be worse."

Walton, a nominee of President George W. Bush, is not alone. Other judges have said the political climate is ripe for another attack like the one injured more than 100 police officers at the Capitol. As Election Day nears, judges are frequently stressing the need to send a message beyond their courtrooms that political violence can't be tolerated.

"It scares me to think about what will happen if anyone on either side is not happy with the results of the election," Judge Jia Cobb, a nominee of President Joe Biden, said during a sentencing hearing last month for four Capitol rioters.

Judge Rudolph Contreras lamented the potential for more politically motivated violence as he sentenced a

Colorado man, Jeffrey Sabol, who helped other rioters drag a police officer into the mob. Sabol later told FBI agents that a "call to battle was announced" and that he had "answered the call because he was a patriot warrior."

"It doesn't take much imagination to imagine a similar call coming out in the coming months, and the court would be concerned that Mr. Sabol would answer that call in the same way," Contreras, a President Barack Obama nominee, said in March before sentencing Sabol to more than five years in prison.

Trump's distortion of the Jan. 6 attack has been a cornerstone of his bid to reclaim the White House. The former president has denied any responsibility for the crimes of supporters who smashed windows, assaulted police officers and sent lawmakers running into hiding as they met to certify President Joe Biden's 2020 victory.

World

AFTER SINWAR DEATH

Israel, Hamas resistance to ending war in Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP)—Hamas confirmed Friday that its leader, Yahya Sinwar, was killed by Israeli forces in Gaza and reiterated its stance that hostages the militant group took from Israel a year ago will not be released until there is a cease-fire in Gaza and a withdrawal of Israeli troops.

The group's staunch position pushed back against a statement by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a day earlier that his country's military will keep fighting until the hostages are released and will remain in Gaza to prevent a severely weakened Hamas from rearming.

The conflicting stands signal continued deep resistance on both sides to ending the war, even as President Joe Biden and other world leaders press

the case that Sinwar's death is a turning point that should be used to unlock stalled cease-fire negotiations.

The standoff comes as Israel's war with Lebanon's Hezbollah—a Hamas ally backed by Iran—has intensified in recent weeks. Hezbollah said Friday it planned to launch a new phase of fighting by sending more guided missiles and exploding drones into Israel. The militant group's longtime leader, Hassan Nasrallah, was killed in an Israeli airstrike late last month, and Israel sent ground troops into Lebanon earlier this month.

Sinwar, the former lead of Hamas, died "confronting the occupation army until the last moment of his life," said his Qatar-based deputy, Khalil al-Hayya, who represented Hamas during several rounds of cease-fire negotiations. Hamas will not return any of the hostages, al-Hayya said, "before the end of the aggres-

sion on Gaza and the withdrawal from Gaza."

Hamas heralded Sinwar in a statement, calling him a hero for "not retreating, brandishing his weapon, engaging and confronting the occupation army at the forefront of the ranks."

The statement appeared to refer to a video the Israeli military circulated of Sinwar's apparent last moments in which a man sits on a chair in severely damaged building, badly wounded and covered in dust. In the video, the man raises his hand and flings a stick at an approaching Israeli drone.

Sinwar was the chief architect of the Hamas raid on Israel last year that killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and kidnapped another 250. Israel's retaliatory offensive in Gaza has killed over 42,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, who do not distinguish combatants from civilians but say more than half the dead are women and children.

Video published by Ukraine allegedly shows North Korean soldiers in Russia

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A video purporting to show dozens of North Korean recruits lining up to collect Russian military fatigues has been released by Ukrainian officials, who say it shows the introduction of troops sent by Pyongyang into the conflict.

The video, published by Ukraine's Center for Strategic Communications and Information Security, which operates under the Culture and Information Ministry, allegedly shows North Korean soldiers standing in line to pick up bags, clothes and other apparel from Russian servicemen. The Associated Press couldn't verify the video independently.

"We received this video from our own sources. We cannot provide additional verification from the sources who provided it to us due to security concerns," said Ihor Solovey, the head of the center.

"The video clearly shows North Korean citizens being given Russian uniforms under the direction of the Russian military," he said. "For Ukraine, this video is important because it is the first video

evidence that shows North Korea participating in the war on the side of Russia. Now not only with weapons and shells but also with personnel."

The center claims the footage was shot by a Russian soldier in recent days. It didn't say how the footage was obtained. The location is unknown.

It comes after the head of Ukrainian military intelligence, Kyrylo Budanov, claimed in local media that about 11,000 North Korean infantrymen were currently training in eastern Russia. He predicted they would be ready to join fighting by November. At least 2,600 would be sent to Russia's Kursk region, where Ukraine launched an incursion in August, he was quoted as saying.

"The emergence of any number of new soldiers is a problem because we will simply need new, additional weapons to destroy them all," Solovey told AP. "The dissemination of this video is important as a signal to the world community that with two countries officially at war against Ukraine, we will need more support to repel this aggression."

Commemorate the
essence of a life well-lived and
honor the legacy of your loved ones
with an **Obituary** in the Saipan Tribune.

Our affordable rates include our expert
design services and a permanent online
space on the saipantribune.com.

For inquiries, please contact our advertising
specialists at (670) 235-8747 or
sales@saipantribune.com

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Life & Style

Cher, Foreigner, Blige, Warwick inducted into Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

CLEVELAND (AP) — Pure pop kicked off the inductions at the Rock & Roll Hall Fame induction ceremony on Saturday as Dua Lipa and Cher sang “Believe” before ceding the stage to a medley of rump shakers by funk masters Kool & the Gang, rock classics by Foreigner and Peter Frampton, and a powerhouse performance by gospel icon Dionne Warwick, bringing the house down at 83.

The inductees this year also included: Mary J. Blige, A Tribe Called Quest, Ozzy Osbourne, Dave Matthews Band and posthumous recognition for Jimmy Buffett, MC5, Alexis Korner, John Mayall, Norman Whitfield and Big Mama Thornton.

“Where do I even begin? Cher is not one person,” Zendaya said when inducting Cher. “Her name is just as legendary as her legacy.” Zendaya noted that Cher, 78, is the only

woman to have a No. 1 hit on a Billboard chart in each of the past seven decades. “Cher has got the goods,” Zendaya said before the singer performed a rocking version of “If I Could Turn Back Time.”

In her speech, Cher said she was inspired by Cinderella and thanked her mother for instilling in her to always get back up after defeat. “The one thing I got from my mom is to never give up,” she said. “I never give up. I’m talking to the women — down and out, we keep going.”

Chuck D inducted Kool & the Gang, saying “This is a long-due celebration.” The band had 12 Top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100 including the 1980 chart-topper “Celebration” as well as “Cherish,” “Get Down On It,” “Jungle Boogie,” “Ladies Night” and “Joanna.” They’ve been eligible for the hall since 1994.

The Roots helped the band do a medley of hits that got the



Cher, left, and Dua Lipa perform during the 39th Annual Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, at Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse in Cleveland.

crowd grooving led by Robert “Kool” Bell—bass guitarist, co-founder and last original member—and longtime singer James “JT” Taylor. Confetti shot into the arena and Taylor asked the crowd to use their cellphone lights as he read off the names of 10 members who were critical to the band’s success.

Dr Dre inducted Blige, who is credited with creating a completely new category of music—hip-hop soul. The nine-time Grammy-winner’s best-known song is “Family Affair” from her triple-platinum 2001 album “No More Drama.” “When you listen to Mary, you understand you’re not alone in

heartbreak,” Dre said.

Blige, wearing shiny black hat, a sparkly dress and long black gloves and boots, sang a mix of her hits, including “Love No Limit,” “Be Happy” and “Family Affair.” At the end of her set, a dancer brought up a cloak to wrap around her, in an echo of James Brown. She thanked her fans, her mom—a single mother raising children in the projects — and Method Man and Dr. Dre, who helped her earn a Grammy and an Emmy. “Move with grace. Trust the journey,” she advised. “You are worthy.”

Warwick arrived at the ceremony only a few days after attending a memorial to her longtime friend and collaborator, Cissy Houston, in Newark, New Jersey. Teyana Taylor called her “truly one of a kind” as well as telling off the teleprompter operator for not putting “Ms.” before her name. Jennifer Hudson

sang “I’ll Never Love This Way Again” and was joined by Warwick, who also sang “Walk On By.”

Warwick said this year was the third time she was nominated for the Hall. “I am so pleased to be here,” she said. “I’m just going to say this and get off the stage: Thank you, thank you, thank you.”

Dave Chappelle helped induct A Tribe Called Quest—Q-Tip, Jarobi, Ali Shaheed Muhammad and the late Phife Dawg—the lone hip-hop group to make the cut this year. Chappelle said the group incorporated “jazz and soul in a way hip-hop had never seen” and they also proved you could be “cool and not necessarily gangster.” Queen Latifah, Busta Rhymes, Common, The Roots and De La Soul were on hand to perform a medley of Tribe hits, including “Bonita Applebum,” “Scenario” and “Can I Kick It?”

Liam Payne’s father arrives in Buenos Aires days after the pop star’s fatal hotel plunge

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The father of former One Direction star Liam Payne arrived in Buenos Aires on Friday to arrange for the return of his son’s body to England two days after the famous boy band singer fell to his death from a hotel balcony.

After landing at the Buenos Aires International Airport in the early morning hours, Geoff Payne was photographed emerging in a blue suit from a downtown hotel accompanied by British consular officials.

He was hustled by security officers into a sleek van with black-tinted windows.

Payne visited the Buenos Aires morgue to identify his son’s body before heading to the local prosecutor’s office, which is investigating the case as a matter of protocol, to organize the repatriation of his son’s remains, Argentine authorities said. He later stopped at the Casa Sur Hotel where Payne died to collect his son’s belongings, where throngs of distraught Argentines had

gathered for the third straight day to pay their respects.

A chain of young fans with linked arms maintained effective crowd control as Payne squeezed past the flowers, photos and hand-written cards piled outside the hotel in tribute to his son. He paused at the makeshift memorial, leaning down to pick up a photo of Liam before thanking everyone and disappearing into the hotel.

“I felt sick to my stomach because I couldn’t say good-

bye to him,” said Mara Dorf, one of the fans at the scene.

It’s the first time that any of Payne’s family members have been seen publicly since the star’s sudden death, which set off a global outpouring of grief and emotion from major pop industry figures and diehard One Direction fans. The shock hit particularly hard at home, with his family saying in a statement hours after his death that they “are heartbroken.”

“Liam will forever live in our hearts and we’ll remember him

for his kind, funny and brave soul,” it said. “We are supporting each other the best we can as a family and ask for privacy and space at this awful time.”

In media interviews over the years, Payne had expressed gratitude and affection for his auto mechanic father and nurse mother, describing them as hard-working and supportive. Both parents made cameos in “One Direction: This Is Us,” the 2013 concert documentary about the popular boy band.

“When I see him on stage I absolutely burst with pride, but we do miss him so much,” Payne’s mother, Karen, said at one point in the film.

The 31-year-old singer’s final hours at the Casa Sur Hotel in Palermo, a trendy neighborhood of Buenos Aires, remain murky as Argentine prosecutors say he appeared to have excessively consumed drugs and alcohol. The prosecution cited investigators who found Payne’s hotel room a mess with what appeared to be narcotics and alcohol strewn about broken objects and furniture.

Grandmother out of sight, out of mind for grandkids

DEAR ABBY: My 98-year-old mother has spent the last eight years in a nursing home. My siblings and I placed her there when her health declined to a point where it was no longer safe for her to live alone. Her mind is sharp, but she has a hard time getting around and caring for herself. She has made friends there and is loved by everyone who meets her.

I live 65 miles away and visit her every two weeks. My brother lives several hours away and tries to see her every six to eight weeks. My sisters live closer and visit Mom often. Mom enjoys these visits.

The problem is the eight grandchildren. Most of them live nearby and are either too busy or say they can’t stand to visit Grandma “in the home.” The ones who live farther away hardly ever call. My siblings and I have tried dropping subtle hints by telling them how much a visit would mean to her, to no avail. My worry is that someday they’ll realize the mistake they made by not visiting her while she can still carry on a meaningful conversation.

Mom never complains, but she has said she’d like to see or hear more from relatives. Why is it that people always have time to go to a funeral but don’t take the time to visit someone special while they’re still alive? I hope my letter convinces someone out there to find time in their busy schedule to visit a

person in a nursing home.

DAUGHTER IN ROCHESTER, N.Y.

DEAR DAUGHTER: You are a caring daughter. I, too, hope your letter does provide a timely reminder that the time to befriend people is while they are breathing. I suspect that many avoid nursing homes and care facilities because they consider them to be depressing. However, unless the patient/resident is so infirm that he or she can’t be moved, nothing prevents a son, daughter or grandchild from taking their relative OUT for a nice brunch, lunch or dinner.

The next time you visit Mom, take one or more of your children along. It would lessen the responsibility of making conversation for them and, if you can take your mother out, the change of scenery might benefit all concerned.

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 15 years cheated on me with a man 20 years her senior. I never so much as winked at another woman. We are divorced now, but I know we still love each other. She calls me from her new house in the middle of the night if she’s scared, even though she plans to marry him. She knows I’m the love of her life. Am I crazy for holding on? I can’t help but still love her. Is she just using me? Is there any hope?

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



IN LIMBO IN IDAHO

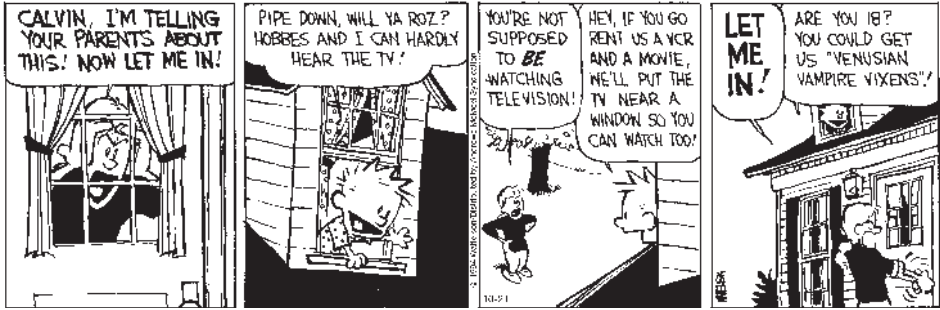
DEAR IN LIMBO: The divorce is final. That she is planning to marry the man she cheated with should be sending you a strong message—and it isn’t that she still loves you. If she gets scared in the middle of the night, remind her that she now has a fiancé to protect her. Then change your number.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



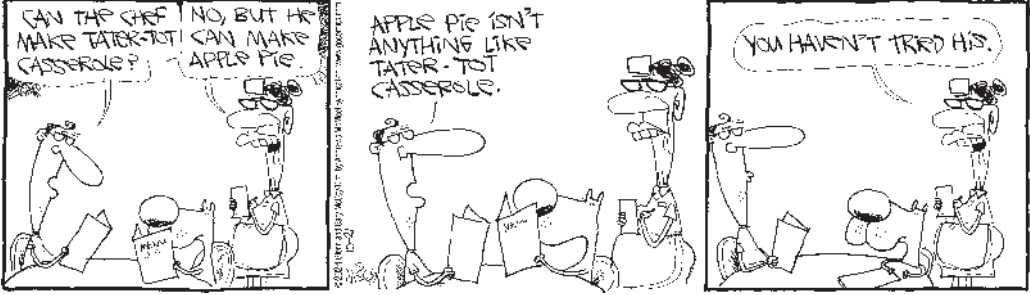
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Price point?

4 Micro-wave

7 Sacred bird of Egypt

11 Monumental

13 Actress Longoria

14 Zilch

15 Director Ephron

16 Bottom line

17 Apothecary measure

18 Took off

20 Spiced tea

22 Business card no.

24 Ornamental beetle

28 Burn slowly

32 Foe

33 Garr of "Tootsie"

34 Author Umberto

36 Help a robber

37 Rep

39 Flying charge

41 Daytona 500 acronym

43 Caustic cleaner

44 "Family Guy" mom

46 Occurrence

50 Jessica of "Dark Angel"

53 Central point

55 Freudian topics

56 Indigent

57 Earth (Pref.)

58 Grate

59 Rock genre

60 Quirky

61 — Moines

DOWN

1 Saw-bucks

2 Per person

3 Lass

4 Buddhist sect

5 Opposite of "sans"

6 Trails

7 WNBA team

8 "Cheers" setting

9 Greek mountain

10 Frodo's friend

12 Record-setting NCAA basketball star who plays for the 7-Down

19 TV's

21 Tennis feat

23 Golfer Trevino

25 C&W legend

26 Pt. of U.S.A.

27 Memory unit

28 Jazz great

29 Ginormous

30 Unrefined metals

31 — Victor

35 Sesame product

38 Eastern "way"

40 Reuben bread

42 Fab Four drummer

45 Took to court

47 "Zounds!"

48 Proboscis

49 Recipe amts.

50 iPhone download

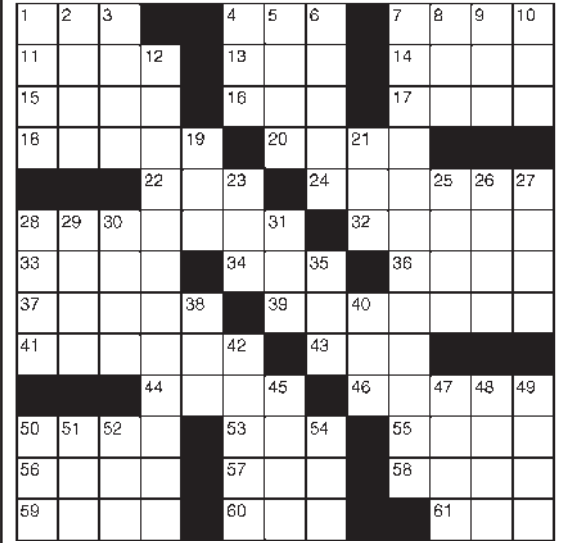
51 Singer Rawls

52 "— voyage!"

54 Physique

Solution time: 21 mins.

Last Friday's answer 10-21



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Blanca Suarez, 36; Glen Powell, 36; Matt Dallas, 42; Judge Judy Sheindlin, 82.

Happy Birthday: Self-improvement will raise your profile and point you in a new direction. Your ability to grasp information and skills will help catapult you to stardom and magnify possibilities you never knew existed. Don't fear change and stay calm; life has so much to offer if you go with the flow. Take the plunge and encourage relationships with diverse people who challenge you to live life fully. Your numbers are 5, 12, 17, 26, 31, 39, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stick to the truth, fulfill promises to yourself and others, and use your energy productively. Getting along with those you share dependencies with will make life easier and your journey more fruitful. Choose and stick to a healthy fitness and diet routine. Romance is in the stars. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Check your emotions at the door when decisions are necessary. Research, fact-check and don't rely on others for answers or solutions. Take charge, invest in yourself and be direct regarding your choices, budget and contributions. Put your energy into your goals and believe in yourself before trusting others. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for the good in everyone and everything and start an infectious trend that leads to positivity and getting things done. Attitude can make a difference and peg you as the instigator or mastermind behind what transpires. Partnerships look promising, and change appears enticing. Embrace life, love and happiness. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Be true to your word and kind to those who need your help or guidance. A change you make that represents what's important to you will have a bigger impact on the results. Follow

through with actions, and the financial returns will pleasantly surprise you. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Check out what's available and determine the groups or experts that can help you find alternatives when you hit a brick wall. A friendly demeanor and good intentions will make your quest for knowledge, assistance and physical attributes that help fulfill your dreams entertaining and worthwhile. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Simplify your life. Understate what you will donate or how you will participate in a cause. A shift at home or work will have underlying advantages you won't initially see or understand. Collect your thoughts, determine what you want and need, and take the path that's right for you. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Observing what's happening around you will help you recognize what and who is authentic. Let your instincts take you in a direction that makes you feel comfortable, offers diversity and has plenty of room for growth. Distance yourself from negative people. An optimistic attitude will carry weight. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put energy into reviewing and revising what's standing between you and where you are heading. Changing your surroundings will spark your imagination and offer insight into what motivates you to thrive and excel. Put your energy where it counts; the results will stimulate you to test the possibilities. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Put your energy to work for you. Get physical, participate and continue until you feel satisfied with what you achieve. Consider how you can improve your lifestyle by making your space user-friendly. Surroundings that motivate you will lead to productivity and

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



free time to enjoy loved ones. ****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stop worrying about what you don't know, and use your attributes and expertise properly. How you direct your energy will determine your success. Stick to your budget and do the work yourself. Look for unique ways to use your talents to bring in extra cash. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Declutter and make room for your next move. Starting with a blank canvas will promote new beginnings. Follow your heart's desires and make the most of every moment. Rethink your plans, set a budget and map out a suitable path that will get you where you want to go. ****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Simplify your life. Sell what you no longer need. Having your finances in order and fewer things to worry about will free your soul and give you the mental maneuverability to discover what's compatible with the lifestyle you desire. Protect your health and emotional well-being. **

Birthday Baby: You are intense, persistent and unique. You are broad-minded and understanding.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty: ★

10/21

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's Answer



Difficulty: ****

10/18

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PAMPAS GRASS Solution: 4 letters



© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndicate www.wonderword.com 10/21

Aisle, Autumn, Backyard, Bouquet, Cake, Centerpiece, Christmas Tree, Crop, Dried, Elegant, Enchanting, Eucalyptus, Farm, Field, Fluff, Forest, Garland, Hallway, Harvest, Hedge, Height, Indoor, Interior Design, Natural, Nursery, Park, Road, Room, Roots, Rose, Season, Seeds, Shade, Spring, Sunshine, Table, Tall, Vase, Wheat, Whimsical, Wreath

Last Friday's answer: Classic

The NEW Volume 77 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Soto's 3-run homer in 10th sends Yankees into 41st World Series



CLEVELAND
(AP)—Juan Soto's arrival

last winter was supposed to be that move that pushed the New York Yankees back to the top.

They're one step away.

Soto hit a three-run homer with two outs in the 10th inning and the Yankees advanced to their 41st World Series—and first in 15 years—by beating the Cleveland Guardians 5-2 in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series on Saturday night.

Baseball's biggest brand is going back to October's main stage.

Soto, who was acquired in a seven-player trade from San Diego in December, pushed the Bronx Bombers into position with one big swing.

This was why he came, for this moment and for so many more.

"We're right where we belong," said Yankees general manager Brian Cashman, who pulled off the deal for Soto.

The Yankees will try to win their 28th title against either the New York Mets or Los Angeles Dodgers. Game 6 of the NL Championship Series is on Sunday at Dodger Stadium.

In the third consecutive tight game in three nights at Progressive Field, Austin Wells walked with one out in the 10th and Alex Verdugo followed with a grounder to Guardians second baseman Andrés Giménez, whose soft



New York Yankees' Juan Soto celebrates after hitting a three-run home run against the Cleveland Guardians during the 10th inning in Game 5 of the baseball AL Championship Series Saturday, Oct. 19, 2024, in Cleveland.

toss to the bag was dropped by rookie shortstop Brayan Rocio for an error.

Hunter Gaddis struck out Gleyber Torres and had Soto in a 1-2 count before New York's stylish outfielder sent a shot over the wall in center. Soto danced down the first-base line and paused to celebrate with his teammates before circling the bases.

"I was just saying to myself, 'You're all over that guy. You're all over that guy. He ain't got anything,'" said Soto, who moved alongside his manager, Aaron Boone, as the only New York players

to homer in an extra-inning, series-clinching win.

Luke Weaver got the final three outs with Lane Thomas flying out for the last one, which was caught by Soto.

"We get to play for a world championship," Boone said. "That's pretty sweet."

The 25-year-old Soto is eligible for free agency this winter, and Yankees fans chanted "Re-sign Soto!" during the postgame festivities. He's expected to get a contract upwards of \$600 million, and his heroics in Game 5 may have raised his price.

Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-

run homer and was named ALCS MVP as the Yankees took care of the Guardians in five games. It wasn't easy.

New York won the first two at Yankee Stadium without much fanfare or any major drama. However, it was a different story in Cleveland as all three games at Progressive Field were nail-biters.

The Guardians rallied to win Game 3 on two, two-run homers in their last two at-bats, and the Yankees held on to win Game 4 after blowing a four-run lead.

"This was a rollercoaster and we were able to just keep

punching back," Stanton said. "We know there's much more work to do and it's only uphill from here and we got to get it done."

Cleveland just didn't have enough and a surprising season under first-year manager Stephen Vogt ended just short of a World Series. The franchise remains without a title since 1948, baseball's current longest drought.

"There's only one team that gets to win the last game of the year, and unfortunately it's not going to be us," Vogt said. "But we accomplished a lot as a group. We got better. We worked extremely hard. I couldn't be more proud of this group. We just didn't get quite as far as we wanted to."

The Yankees are back in the World Series, back where their fans expect them to be every year.

The club's 82-80, fourth-place finish in the AL East last season led to some "soul searching as an organization" during the winter, according to Boone, who has been widely criticized but is one of just three managers to take New York to playoffs in six of his first seven seasons.

While the team's core stayed mostly intact, getting Soto in a blockbuster trade on Dec. 7 — New York sent five players to San Diego for the three-time All-Star—accelerated the team returning to title contender.

"That was a good day,"

Boone said with a laugh before the game.

Stanton's 446-foot rocket into the left-field bleachers tied it at 2 in the sixth and chased Tanner Bibee, who had struck out New York's dangerous DH in his first two at-bats and held the Yankees scoreless for the first five innings.

It was Stanton's fourth homer in this series—his third in three days—and his 16th in the postseason, moving him into fourth place on the club's career list behind Bernie Williams (22), Derek Jeter (20) and Mickey Mantle (18).

Before the game, Boone was asked what makes Stanton so good.

"He can hit it harder than anyone, first of all," Boone said. "So there's the physical nature of what he does that's different than just about everyone in the world."

But Boone went on to compliment Stanton's discipline at the plate, "his approach, his process, how he studies guys."

"There's something that he does when he gets familiarity with people on top of being very physically gifted," Boone said.

The Guardians took a 2-0 lead in the fifth off Carlos Rodón on Steven Kwan's RBI single with two outs. But Cleveland missed a big chance for more, leaving the bases loaded when Lane Thomas grounded out on the first pitch to him from Mark Leiter Jr.

Dodgers to employ parade of relievers against Mets with chance to clinch record 25th pennant at home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers are hoping this bullpen game goes better than their last one.

The Dodgers are going with a parade of relievers as they try to close out the New York Mets in Game 6 of the NL Championship Series on Sunday night. There has been no word from manager Dave Roberts on who will serve as the opener for the NL West champions.

New York is going with Sean Manaea at Dodger Stadium. The Mets won 12-6 on Friday to send the best-of-seven series back to LA.

The Dodgers are trying to secure their fourth trip to the World Series in the last eight years. Their only title during that stretch came in the pandemic-shortened 2020 season against Tampa Bay. They haven't clinched an NL pennant—they own a record 24—at home since 1988.

"The opportunity to do it here in LA in front of these fans will be very special," pitcher Evan Phillips said Saturday.

The Dodgers are using a

bullpen game for the third time this postseason, and second against the Mets.

"The benefit for us is that bullpen games are somewhat of a regular thing to the point where we're braced for whatever situation we're called upon for that day," Phillips said. "That communication will come to us pregame, and we'll be ready to go for sure."

Manaea is 2-0 with a 2.65 ERA in playoff starts, including a Game 2 victory at Dodger Stadium against LA's bullpen.

"We'll watch him closely and we'll be ready and adjust if we need to," rookie Mets manager Carlos Mendoza said.

Manaea had complained of hitting the wall after his last start, which lasted into the sixth inning.

"I threw a lot of balls arm-side, which hasn't been typical for me, so I just couldn't really get that mind-body connection to make the adjustment," the left-hander said. "I'm just trying to push through that. I hopefully can go deep into the game."

In Game 2, the Mets got to

the Dodgers' bullpen early, scoring six runs in the first two innings en route to a 7-3 victory. New York snapped the Dodgers' run of 33 consecutive scoreless innings in the playoffs, too.

"Similar to what we did in Game 2 with the expectation of better execution," Roberts said of Sunday's plan.

He suggested the Dodgers would "be a little bit more aggressive" in getting to their high-leverage relievers earlier than they did in Game 2.

Roberts successfully used the bullpen gambit when facing elimination against the San Diego Padres in Game 4 of the NL Division Series. He didn't hesitate in going to high-leverage relievers Michael Kopech, Alex Vesia and Phillips, who all appeared by the sixth inning. The Dodgers won and closed out the Padres in five games. Vesia is injured and didn't make the NLCS roster.

Mendoza was weighing a potential lineup of Jesse Winker at designated hitter again and Jeff McNeil back at second base. Winker went

2 for 3 with an RBI triple and McNeil had two RBIs in Friday's victory.

"I thought the at-bats were really good especially for a guy that hasn't played for a long time, especially the situational hitting," Mendoza said of McNeil. "We don't know who we're facing. We've still got to wait and see what we got here."

Roberts, in turn, was plotting his pitching order based on how the Mets construct their lineup.

"It's an all-hands-on-deck situation," he said. "And with the 'pen, there's only so much you can push each guy. So it's kind of just depending on where they're at as far as kind of hitter, pitch count, all that stuff."

The teams are meeting in the NLCS for the first time since 1988, when the Dodgers beat the Mets in seven games and eventually went on to win their sixth World Series title.

Warming it up

After three chilly games in New York, where temperatures were in the 50s and play-

ers donned knit hats and long sleeves, the series returns to the warmth of California. Sunday's forecast calls for temperatures in the high 70s by first pitch before dropping to the 60s as the game goes on.

"Hopefully everything feels good tomorrow and pitches are moving how I want them to be," Manaea said.

Dogging it

Shohei Ohtani's wife, Mamiko, and their dog, Decoy, have been low-profile regulars at Dodger Stadium during the playoffs. The duo watches the games from a suite where they can stay inside and away from camera lenses and fans.

Ohtani's record \$700 million, 10-year contract includes a private suite at the stadium.

She and Decoy showed up Saturday for the team's workout. Decoy wasn't wearing his Dodgers jersey, which he apparently saves for game days.

After a recent game, Ohtani's agent was carrying Decoy out of the stadium while Mamiko walked alongside. Ohtani stunned his teammates and fans around the

world when he revealed in February that he had married Mamiko Tanaka, a former Japanese basketball player who avoids publicity.

Injury update

Dodgers first baseman Freddie Freeman's status for Game 6 had yet to be decided. Roberts said he was expecting the All-Star with a sprained right ankle to play, but "if it's costly for him or us we'll certainly pivot."

"I'm not going to compromise his health or certainly winning a game if he's not mentally and/or physically ready to go," Roberts added.

Dodgers catcher Will Smith was replaced by a pinch hitter in Game 5 after taking either a foul tip or a bat to his catching hand. Roberts said tests were negative and he expects Smith to play Sunday.

Dodgers second baseman Gavin Lux won't start Sunday because of an injured hip that limited him to a pinch-hit appearance in Game 5.

Mets outfielder Brandon Nimmo has been playing with plantar fasciitis in his left foot.

Payton triumphs in return to New Orleans as Broncos win



N E W ORLEANS (AP)—Sean Payton made a point of getting to the

Superdome long before he normally would for a game—six hours before kickoff—so he could ease into his emotional return to a place where he coached on the home sideline for a decade and a half.

“I’m glad I was here early,” Payton said, reflecting on the heady times in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, when the Saints became a morale-boosting, inspirational force in the lives of rebuilding residents.

“That was a unique time,” Payton recalled. “None of us understood what it would mean and how big it would become. Coming back here is different and kind of special.”

And made better by seeing his current team, the Denver Broncos, win handily.

Javonte Williams rushed for two touchdowns, Cody Barton returned a fumble 52 yards for a score, and the Broncos beat the banged-up and reeling Saints 33-10 on Thursday night.

Bo Nix passed for 164 yards and ran for 75 yards for Denver (4-3), which dominated statistically. The Broncos outgained New Orleans 389 yards to 271 while sending the Saints (2-5) to their fifth straight defeat.

“It was awesome. The Saints mean a lot to him. He was there for a while and had amazing success,” Nix said, alluding to Payton’s franchise-high 152 regular-season victories with the Saints from 2006 to 2021, and his Super Bowl-



New Orleans Saints head coach Dennis Allen, left, talks with Denver Broncos head coach Sean Payton after an NFL football game, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, in New Orleans.

winning season in 2009. “I’m happy for him.”

Payton’s New Orleans teams had just two losses at home by 20 points or more, something the Saints have done twice in the past five days.

“It’s been disappointing,” Allen said. “Injuries play a part of it but we’ve got to find a way to play better.

“We’re making mistakes we shouldn’t be making,” Allen added. “Us as coaches and players alike, we’ve got to figure it out.”

Allen was Payton’s defensive coordinator in New Orleans, and the two embraced after the game.

“I felt bad,” said Payton, who has now defeated all 32 NFL teams as a head coach.

“New Orleans is nicked up, got a lot of injuries.”

With Saints quarterback Derek Carr (oblique) missing his second straight game, there were rookies under center for both teams.

Spencer Rattler made his second straight start for New Orleans and his lack of experience was exacerbated by injuries all across the offense.

The Saints were missing top receivers Chris Olave (concussion) and Rashid Shaheed (knee), the latter going on in-

jured reserve earlier in the day. Two starting linemen, center Erik McCoy (groin) and guard Cesar Ruiz (knee), were out. Versatile tight end Taysom Hill (ribs) missed his third straight game.

Rattler was overwhelmed by a Denver defense that came in ranked fourth in the NFL in yards allowed.

He was 25 of 35 for 172 yards, rushed for 34 yards and lost two fumbles, the second of which Barton took to the end zone in the fourth quarter.

Rattler appeared shaken up on the play and was replaced by Jake Haener, who connected with Cedric Wilson for New Orleans’ lone TD.

Barton forced Rattler’s first fumble, which led to one of former Saint Wil Lutz’s four field goals.

Rattler was sacked six times, once by linebacker Nik Bonitto, who had a sack for a fifth straight game.

New Orleans’ defense, meanwhile, could not come up with any momentum-

turning plays.

Tryann Mathieu uncharacteristically dropped an errant pass by Nix that sailed directly to the veteran defensive back late in the second quarter. That allowed the the Broncos to close out the half with a field goal and a 16-3 lead.

“Early on in the season, we played good football, so I know this team has it in them,” Allen said, referring to lopsided victories over Carolina and Dallas. “But right now we’re not playing that way and obviously there’s a multitude of reasons why, and we’ve got to figure out how to get back to playing that type of football.”

During halftime, record-setting former QB Drew Brees was honored on the field to mark his induction into the Saints Hall of Fame. Team owner Gayle Benson presented Brees with a blazer, and a portrait of the club’s all-time passer holding the Lombardi Trophy was unveiled.

Brees also was honored at a luncheon earlier in the day, during which Payton made an appearance to congratulate the star player he coached for 14 seasons.

“It’s always good to see him,” Payton said.

Brees’ 80,358 career yards passing rank second in NFL history behind only Tom Brady’s 89,214.

For many fans in attendance, the halftime festivities were the highlight of the night. The Superdome was largely empty by the fourth quarter.

Jay Cutler charged with DUI, possession of handgun after traffic accident

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (AP)—Former NFL quarterback Jay Cutler was arrested and charged with driving under the influence and possession of a handgun after a minor collision on Thursday.

Cutler, 41, was given a \$5,000 bond and was released, according to a statement from the Franklin Police Department.

Police say they responded to an accident and it appeared that Cutler’s vehicle rear-ended another. Officers detected the smell of alcohol on Cutler, who also had blood-shot eyes and was slurring his words, the police said.

Cutler refused a field sobriety test and was taken to a hospital where a blood

sample was obtained after getting a search warrant, the release said.

The police said they also found two firearms in the car, including a loaded pistol.

Cutler was also charged with failure to exercise due care to avoid a collision and violating implied consent. All charges are misdemeanors or civil offenses, according to Tennessee law.

Cutler played 12 seasons in the NFL, throwing for 35,133 yards and 227 touchdowns for Denver, Chicago and Miami. He retired after the 2017 season with the Dolphins.

Cutler was previously married to reality TV star Kristin Cavallari, but the pair announced their divorce in 2020.

Patriots practice on Winston Churchill’s old stomping grounds in London

LONDON (AP)—They’ll toil and sweat but hopefully without the blood and tears.

A London game is more than just a typical road trip for NFL teams. It’s a chance to learn about local history, too.

In fact, the New England Patriots and Jacksonville Jaguars—who play Sunday at Wembley Stadium—don’t even need to leave their practice facilities to do so.

The Patriots trained Friday at the exclusive Harrow School, whose most famous alumnus is Winston Churchill. Farther out in the countryside, the Jaguars have been using a practice field that is nearly on top of a maze of World War II air raid shelters.

Harrow consists of 324 acres on a hill overlooking London where Churchill spent his high school years before entering politics and leading Britain through World War II as prime minister.

“If any of the Pats players take a break from practice, they should walk around and see the school grounds be-

cause they’re quite grand,” said Lee Pollock, a director and senior adviser to the board of the International Churchill Society.

A highlight is the Speech Room, where young Churchill recited 1,200 lines from the poem “Lays of Ancient Rome” from memory and won a prize for the feat.

“At Harrow, he learned what he called the most noble thing in the world: the construction of a sentence in the English language,” Pollock said.

Patriots coach Jerod Mayo noted another big character—a fictional one—from Harrow’s more recent history.

“I’m definitely a big history guy and I would also say I just learned that there was a Harry Potter scene shot here as well, which I thought was pretty interesting,” Mayo said.

Deatrich Wise Jr., a defensive end, said he already knew Churchill was an alum because “someone said it on the way in.”

Pockets of American politicians have long admired and

quoted the cigar-chomping Churchill, and that’s spilled over into sports too. San Diego Chargers coach Jim Harbaugh is a big fan. Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker cited Churchill in a social media post about courage, though he’s not the first to misattribute a quote to him.

New York Jets owner Woody Johnson had a large Churchill portrait in his office at the U.S. embassy when he was ambassador to the United Kingdom under then-President Donald Trump. Outside of his wartime leadership, Churchill’s legacy is more complex.

The Jags are close to history, too. To avoid German bombing in WWII, the London, Midland and Scottish Railway bought the Grove estate in Watford and moved its headquarters there. It was called “Project X.”

Air raid shelters were built and are still intact—explorers have posted videos online even though the entrances appear to be at least par-

tially blocked. At one point they were being used as “bat roosts,” according to historical records. The Grove luxury hotel where the Jags now regularly stay opened in 2003.


Several entrances to the shelters are visible in the woods next to the Jags’ practice field.

Jaguars quarterback Trevor Lawrence, speaking generally about the team’s annual London trip, says he’s always up for learning more about the region.

“I do enjoy history and learning about things,” he said on Wednesday. “I don’t know a ton about the area, to be honest. Usually when we’re here it’s pretty busy and we’re kind of focused on the game and trying to win that, but I am intrigued and I think it’s cool just everything here at the Grove but also just in London—it’s so much older than in America.”

“The history behind it,” Lawrence continued, “you pick up bits as you go ... it is interesting hearing different things about it.”

Heat's Jaquez, Warriors' Podziemski among sophomores expected to make leaps

 **MIAMI** (AP)—The first three names last season on the NBA All-Rookie team list were no surprise. San Antonio's Victor Wembanyama, the No. 1 overall pick in 2023 and unanimous rookie of the year, was an obvious lock. So was Oklahoma City's Chet Holmgren, the No. 2 pick in the 2022 draft and rookie-eligible last season because he missed what would have been his first year with injury. And Charlotte's Brandon Miller, the No. 2 pick in 2023, was an easy call as well.

They all lived up to their billing.

The other two first-team All-Rookie picks outperformed their billing. Miami's Jaime Jaquez Jr. and Golden State's Brandin Podziemski weren't even lottery picks—yet there they were on the All-Rookie first team, two players who outperformed their draft spot perhaps more notably than anyone else last season. And as this season gets set to open, Jaquez and Podziemski know they're going to be asked to play bigger roles for their clubs as a pair of NBA sophomores poised to take significant leaps forward.

"During the pre-draft process, I

told all the GMs and all the front offices that interviewed me that in the re-draft I would go top-five," Podziemski said. "Some of them looked at me crazy and some of them believed me. And I think being a first-team All-Rookie member, I think that kind of solidifies what I was saying."

The voting after last season made that clear. There were 99 ballots cast by a panel of reporters and broadcasters who cover the league as part of the NBA's award selection process; in the All-Rookie race, Wembanyama, Holmgren and Jaquez appeared on all 99. Miller was on 98, Podziemski on 97.

It's fitting that Jaquez and Podziemski ended up on the All-Rookie team together, because they were together plenty along the way. They were drafted back-to-back in 2023—Jaquez at 18, Podziemski at 19. Both were West Coast kids out of college—Jaquez at UCLA, Podziemski at Santa Clara. They worked out together heading into their rookie NBA seasons. And both were picked to be part of USA Basketball's Select Team this summer, part of the group that was tasked to get the senior national team ready to win gold at the

Paris Olympics.

"I don't look at draft position as a make-or-break type of thing. No matter where you get drafted, you've got to go out and play," Jaquez said. "A lot of that has to do with fit. Some guys like other guys better. Myself and Podz, I had a lot of workouts with him and I knew that he was going to be a problem coming into this league."

"Both of us just have a lot of experience playing basketball and have very sound games and understand the game of basketball at a very high level. And I think that we'll just kind of use that to our advantage going into this year."

The Heat and Warriors both hope that plan pays off. Jaquez was fifth in total points and third in steals among rookies last season, while Podziemski was third among rookies in total rebounds (no small feat considering only Holmgren and Wembanyama were ahead of him) and fourth in assists.

GES

From page 16

goal of the finals.

The Golden Boot Award was a two-way tie between GES 2's Pritam Roy and SIS' Guy Pudney with 20 goals each in the season.

With Okaruru and Poole were Jacob Borja, Leo Li, Harper Loken,

Rheann Macalinao, Bolei Mendez, Keanu Pangelinan, Athitaya Sawikan, Berlena Dela Cruz, and Skyler Leon Guerrero.

WSR's roster included Ramon Camacho, Darshwana Chhetri, Zane Fujihara, Ryan Ichihara, Hazel Kim, Damien Leon Guerrero, Destiny Palacios, Rex Rivera, Raynold Saka, Jayboy Taitano, and Ayesha Tenorio.

GES coach Peter Loken said of

their win after the championships, "It's great. They played so hard. WSR did a great job too. It's something that we've been working toward all season and it's great that it finally paid off."

The strengths of their team, said the 15-year veteran coach, was, "We play very balanced soccer. I think we pass well, we communicate well, and we work together. We try to move as

a unit and score as a unit too."

He added, "This team is very skilled, but also unselfish. They were willing to pass the ball even though they could maybe shoot. They were willing to put in the extra effort. We practiced a lot and they showed it. They were ready to play."

Third place went to Saipan International School Geckos over GES 2, 3-2.

SPC

From page 16

followed by sunshine breaking through the clouds—and then at times, it was raining while the sun was out. The waters were rough early on but calmed down later in the afternoon.

In the junior men's V1 500m finals, it was dominated by SPC paddlers. SPC's up-and-coming paddler Tyler Andrew came from behind and won gold with a time of 2:45.18. Silver was teammate Phillip Aldan at 2:46.52. Bronze went to Yu Ling Chai at 2:46:55.

The 18-year-old Andrew said of his win, "I knew that myself and everyone else falls apart at the 250m mark because that's the last stretch. The water gets heavy and it gets hard to pull. So I just found a way to stay with the crowd in the start and not waste too much energy." As for how the water conditions were at that time, he said, "there's some little swells. They were going the opposite direction of the wind so that was a bit challenging trying to keep it straight because my boat would always go right."

The SPC junior women also bagged a gold medal with a win in the V12 500m sprints with a time of 2:52.19. Silver was Guam's Taotao Galaide at 2:59.25.

In the junior men's V12, SPC took home gold with a time of 2:25 flat over Guam's Taotao Galaide at 2:25.95.

As for MOC, their mixed open V12 team dominated the 500m sprints with a time of 2:27.30. Silver was Guam's TTG 2 Maksum at 2:27.57. Bronze was SPC at 2:30.99.

MOC's women's V12 team snagged the gold medal after Marianas Pacific Paddlers was disqualified for impeding in lane 2. MOC finished at 2:42.91, while silver went to Guam's Taotao Galaide at 2:47.07.

The MOC men's V12 team bagged another gold for their club as they came in first with a time of 2:23.08. Silver was Taotao Galaide at 2:26.12, and bronze went to PFM/LMS at 2:28.22.

MOC coach Jason Tarkong said after the women's finals that they actually didn't have time to practice the V12 races until that morning. "MPP came in a split second ahead of our girls but unfortunately, the officials said they were disqualified because they got in the wrong lane," he said. "But I'm proud of our girls. They worked hard and trained hard. We wish we had more time in the V12, but we'll take the win. My heart goes out to MPP and all the other teams that worked hard, but it was very close and it was an excellent competition. We're very grateful and appreciative of the officials and their call."

Results of the other races that day are as follows:

In the open women's V1 500m race, Nahokuheleiakeahuolu Keala of Guam's Maneran Galaide won gold with a time of 3:03.06. Silver was Kia Quichocho from Guam's Napu at 2:59.00. Bronze went to SPC's Jenisha Dubrall at 3:18.22.

In the open men's V1 500m finals, Kaihe Chong of Maneran Galaide sprinted into gold at 2:26.05. Silver was teammate Aiden Artero at 2:36.05. Bronze went to MOC's Maverick Itibus at 2:37.90.

As for the junior women's V1 500m finals, Dina Soriano of Guam's Puti'on Tasi bagged gold at 3:06.70. Silver went to teammate Kayla River at 3:12.81, while bronze was SPC's Emma Chong at 3:15.21.

In the masters V1 men 500m race, Guam's Jason Park of Taotao Galaide won gold with a time of 2:48.40. Silver was MOC's Richard Sikkell at 2:57.14, and bronze went to SPC's Joseph Weaver at 2:27.54.

The masters V1 women's 500m race was dominated by Guam's Masako Sablan of Taotao Galaide who smoked everyone with a time of 3:23 flat. Silver was Napu's Lori Wong at 3:41.50, while bronze was MPP's Maria Ornes at 3:51.06.

Results of Day 2 last Saturday and Day 3 last Sunday will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNMI teams were Marianas Outrigger Club, Saipan Paddling Club, and Marianas Pacific Paddlers.

The teams from Guam include Animun Tasi, Bihun Tasi, Haggan Jrs., Maneran Galaide, Napu, PFM, Poksai Canoe Club, Puti'on Tasi, and Taotao Galaide.

The lone team from RMI that made the long trip to Saipan is the Majol Canoe Paddling Club.

NMNPSF would like to thank the following sponsors: Tan Holdings, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Crowne Plaza, IT&E, MARPAC, Marianas Visitors Authority, Turnkey Solutions, The Athlete's Foot, Paradise Realty Saipan, Marianas Pacific Paddlers, Micronesia Brokers, H.K. Pangelinan & Associates, LLC, Coca Cola, UR Tents, Northern Marianas College's media team, Hafa Adai Rent A Car, and Herman's Bakery.

Special thanks to the Saipan Mayor's Office, Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services, Division of Parks & Recreations, Rep. John Paul Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Vince Castro, Next Level Media CNMI, Christopher Toto, Angie Yarormad, CNMI Designs, KKMP, Pacific Development, Inc., Chamolinian Cultural Village Inc., Wiski Services, 500 Sails, Pualani Crown, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance, I Napu Dance Group, Da Kine, Tipi-yew Bwiibwis, and Asia Hilario.

CUKI

From page 16

His credentials were perfect for what we needed."

In 2004, when Alvarez began his efforts, MMA and BJJ were "virtually non-existent in the CNMI," he recalled. Recognizing the need for proper training and competitive platforms, he took it upon himself to pioneer these combat sports in the region. Through events such as Trench Wars, Rites of Passage, and The Art of War, Alvarez gave local fighters

the opportunity to compete and refine their skills.

His work didn't stop there. Alvarez continues to drive the sport forward with more recent events, including Ring of Fire, Cage of Fire, and Mats on Fire, providing aspiring fighters with regular competition and opportunities to showcase their skills.

When asked how he felt about receiving the Marianas Open Pioneer Award, Alvarez said,

"I am truly honored and privileged to have received this award among several other well-deserving and passionate BJJ practitioners from Guam."

The award reflects not only his achievements but also the growth of MMA and jiu-jitsu in the region—a movement he has led since the early 2000s.

"It shows that people truly do appreciate and respect all the hard work you put into building and growing the sport here in the Northern Marianas," he said.

For Alvarez, this recognition serves as validation of the dedication and effort he has invested in the sport. "I feel a sense of gratitude, and I am blessed that my hard work is acknowledged and noticed."

Alvarez hopes that his recognition will inspire future generations of fighters in the CNMI. "I am proud, and I will continue to work diligently in keeping jiu-jitsu and MMA growing in our Marianas for many years to come."

As Alvarez looks to the future, his impact on the combat sports community in the CNMI continues to thrive. His journey, marked by dedication and a drive to improve the skills of local fighters, has left a lasting legacy that will inspire and shape the next generation of athletes in the region.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES						
NFL STANDINGS						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	4	2	0	.667	165	126
Miami	2	3	0	.400	60	113
N.Y. Jets	2	4	0	.333	113	108
New England	1	5	0	.167	83	143
South						
Houston	5	1	0	.833	143	135
Indianapolis	3	3	0	.500	139	139
Tennessee	1	4	0	.200	96	110
Jacksonville	1	5	0	.167	113	178
North						
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	177	149
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	.667	124	86
Cincinnati	2	4	0	.333	157	152
Cleveland	1	5	0	.167	95	141
West						
Kansas City	5	0	0	1.000	118	85
L.A. Chargers	3	2	0	.600	91	66
Denver	4	3	0	.571	145	106
Las Vegas	2	4	0	.333	109	163
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Washington	4	2	0	.667	178	145
Philadelphia	3	2	0	.600	106	112
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	126	168
N.Y. Giants	2	4	0	.333	96	121
South						
Atlanta	4	2	0	.667	149	135
Tampa Bay	4	2	0	.667	178	141
New Orleans	2	5	0	.286	177	180
Carolina	1	5	0	.167	103	203
North						
Minnesota	5	0	0	1.000	139	76
Detroit	4	1	0	.800	151	91
Chicago	4	2	0	.667	148	101
Green Bay	4	2	0	.667	162	121
West						
San Francisco	3	3	0	.500	162	130
Seattle	3	3	0	.500	146	150
Arizona	2	4	0	.333	133	163
L.A. Rams	1	4	0	.200	94	139



**Soto's 3-run
homer in 10th
sends Yankees
into 41st
World Series**
PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Heat's Jaquez,
Warriors' Podziemski
among sophomores
expected to make
leaps**
PAGE 15



16 MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

GES 1 clips WSR's wings, 1-0, for title

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The undefeated Garapan Elementary School Mallards 1 clipped William S. Reyes Elementary School Kingfisher 1's wings after a 1-0 win in the championship of the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training in Koblerville.

In a captivating, edge-of-your seat final with supporters of both teams cheering on their young soccer players, the Mallards and Kingfishers soared to great heights in the much-anticipated championship showdown.

The Mallards were the top team in Group B during the



Garapan Elementary School 1 celebrates with their championship trophy during the awards ceremony of the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training in Koblerville.

regular season with an undefeated record of five wins. They took that momentum into the playoffs and came out on top still unscathed.

They faced off against a formidable Kingfishers team that upset Saipan International School Geckos in the semifinals, who were the top seed in Group A in the regular season.

Both the Mallards and the Kingfishers played their hearts out as they tried to get the advantage first, but their defenses held steadfast. After back-and-forth action with no goal in sight yet for either team, GES' Evan Poole found an opening in the 11th minute to put them up, 1-0.

The action didn't stop there as the Kingfishers tried to regroup and get something going in their favor, but GES keeper Peter Okaruru didn't let his guard down and de-

fended the goal like his life depended on it.

There were several instances when the Kingfishers pushed into GES territory, but to no avail as GES' defensive pressure had a chokehold on the pitch. With just a couple minutes left, WSR made some rushed plays towards Okaruru to try and tie it up and force a shootout, but they failed to convert and handed the trophy to the Mallards.

The MVP of the finals went to Poole who scored the lone

See GES on Page 15



Golden Boot Award winners Garapan Elementary School 2's Pritom Roy, foreground right, and Saipan International School's Guy Pudney, foreground left, pose with their award with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association board members and PSS athletics director Nick Gross, third left, and Board of Education member Greg Borja, far left, during the awards ceremony of the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training in Koblerville.



MVP of the finals, Garapan Elementary School 1's Evan Poole poses with his trophy during the awards ceremony of the 2024-2025 NMIFA-PSS Interscholastic Elementary School Soccer League last Thursday at the NMI Soccer Training in Koblerville.

SPC Juniors, MOC shine on Day 1

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Host CNMI's paddling clubs left their mark in their home turf as Saipan Paddling Club's junior paddlers and Marianas Outrigger Club represented their home well with first place wins in

their respective divisions on the first day of races in the 24th Micronesia Cup Canoe Race last Friday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

It was another day of unpredictable weather in the Marianas, with rain drenching the venue in the morning,

See SPC on Page 15



Marianas Outrigger Club's V12 men's team poses in celebration on their way back to shore after the gold medal win in the finals of the 500m race on the first day of races in the 24th Micronesia Cup Canoe Race last Friday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

Cuki receives Marianas Open Pioneer Award



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Trench Tech Purebred Saipan founder Justis "Cuki" Alvarez poses with his Marianas Open Pioneer award and medal that he received during the recent 2024 Marianas Open International Championship Jiu-Jitsu Tournament in Guam.

By JERCY DIANA MAXIMO
jercymaximo05@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Trench Tech Purebred Saipan founder Justis "Cuki" Alvarez was awarded the Marianas Open Pioneer Award, recognizing him as the sole recipient from the Marianas and celebrating his contributions to mixed martial arts and Brazilian jiu-jitsu in the CNMI.

The award, presented at a recent 2024 Marianas Open International Championship Jiu-Jitsu Tournament held in Guam, highlights Alvarez's efforts in promoting and establishing combat sports in the region.

Reflecting on the early stages of his involvement in MMA and jiu-jitsu, Alvarez recalls the pivotal moment that sparked his journey during the Tinian Fury Fighting Islands Event.

"I was frustrated! Just watching all my fellow CNMI fighters losing and being helpless to assist them," he shared. Despite having strong stand-up fighting skills, Alvarez noted

that both he and the fighters lacked critical ground game skills, which played a significant role in their losses.

Determined to address this gap, Alvarez took action by learning more MMA and jiu-jitsu techniques to train local fighters. "We had great stand-up fighting skills but zero ground skills at the time," he explained. This realization pushed him to focus on developing submission fighting skills for the island's athletes.

To bolster the fighters' training, Alvarez made the strategic decision to hire Kato Tetsuji, a professional MMA fighter from Japan, to live and train with them from 2004 to 2010. "Hiring Kato was the best decision we ever made," Alvarez said.

At the time, Tetsuji was an up-and-coming fighter, the Shooto Fighting Series Welterweight Champion, a Brazilian jiu-jitsu brown belt, and a judo black belt.

"He possessed all the techniques we were looking for MMA fights in the cage.

See CUKI on Page 15